

2009 annual report



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
Pakistan / Afghanistan





greetings from CWS-P/A

As we reflect on 2009, we remember the tragedy of the largest and fastest human displacement that the world witnessed in more than a decade. We remember the millions of people in Pakistan's northwest who were uprooted by the conflict between the Pakistan military and the militant extremists.

In response to the crisis, CWS-P/A quickly mobilized assistance and resources. It was through this urgent action by CWS-P/A staff and volunteers that we contributed to the massive life-saving response carried out by the whole humanitarian community.

And while we remember the massive displacement that affected so many – along with those who still remain far from home to this day – we also acknowledge the millions across Afghanistan and Pakistan who still live in desperate poverty, lack basic services, and have yet to fully realize all of their rights.

Over the past year, we have fed the hungry, cared for the sick, and provided shelter to those with nowhere to go. Girls have improved access to education and the promise of a better future. Women have learned how to ensure the nutrition and livelihoods of their families. The seeds of peace have been planted for this and future generations. And we continue to work for a day when women and religious minorities are free from socio-political discrimination.

We give thanks for the opportunities shared by donors and communities alike to work together over this past year for human dignity, rights, and peace.

We invite you to explore the following pages of this report as we both remember and celebrate the continued partnerships between staff, partners, and communities.

Sincerely,

The CWS-P/A Team

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Cover Photo: Students learn in a recently retro-fitted classroom in Abbottabad, Pakistan.



emergency response

Relief for Pakistan's Internally Displaced Families

In the Spring of 2009, the Pakistan military began an offensive against the militant extremists in the Swat Valley. Some three million people were forced to flee their homes in what became the largest and fastest human displacement the world had seen in a decade.

Casualties, infrastructure damage, curfews, a lack of basic services, and fear compelled millions to flee to safer areas. The crisis knew no class, religion, gender, or age; and the millions who fled included farmers, teachers, civil servants, doctors, the poorest and the wealthiest, and the elderly and the young.

Families traveled by public transport and by foot, and they mostly came empty handed. The government established camps and the local communities opened their doors to the displaced families. Throughout the extremely hot summer months, displaced families lived in unimaginable circumstances. As the government declared areas safe, most people began returning to their homes. Yet at the same time, the military began

During the height of the Swat emergency, CWS-P/A distributed monthly food rations to 6,256 families.

new operations in South Waziristan causing a new influx of displaced people to host communities.

At the onset of the displacement, CWS-P/A immediately started mobilizing resources in order to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance. The organization's ongoing assistance included food packages, shelter kits, and non-food items. Initially, CWS-P/A provided shelter and food assistance to the most vulnerable families. And after receiving international support from our partners, CWS-P/A initiated its operations targeting 6,256 at-risk families as recipients of food packages in Mardan and Swabi.

CWS-P/A's health team immediately began providing services through its mobile health units, staffed by some volunteers, until more significant donor funds began to flow. The health team provided more than 23,000 consultations and conducted more than 1,300 health education sessions.

In August, efforts to provide non-food items began, and over the next few months approximately 4,729 families received items including kitchen sets, blankets, hygiene kits, and mosquito nets. Later in the year, food distributions were carried out in Dera Ismael Khan for families displaced from South Waziristan.

As 2010 continues, new needs are expected to emerge as the fighting continues to spread and as hundreds of thousands more Pakistanis are forced to flee. CWS-P/A with the support of its partners across the globe will continue to respond where families are most vulnerable and in need of assistance.



Small-Scale Emergencies in Afghanistan

In April 2009, CWS-P/A was well-placed to respond to the aftermath of two 5-magnitude earthquakes that struck Nangarhar Province in Afghanistan. The immediate devastation included the loss of some 22 lives, the damage and destruction of hundreds of homes, and the death of close to 600 livestock.

With the support of the ACT Alliance, CWS-P/A met the immediate needs of affected families following the earthquakes. Relying upon its local networks and connections to communities, CWS-P/A provided emergency relief supplies to 300 families. The distributions, which were prioritized to families who suffered the greatest impact, included food packages, kitchen sets, tarpaulins, and blankets to assist in their recovery. And with its massive long-term health program in Nangarhar Province, CWS-P/A provided additional emergency medical assistance to earthquake-affected families.

In addition, with the support of material goods from Afghans for Afghans, extremely poor children in Kabul were prepared for the upcoming cold winter. More than 1,000 vulnerable children received warm clothes including sweaters, mittens, socks, and hats. In addition, children also received stationary to assist with their education needs.

Assistance for Religious Minorities

In August 2009, violence against Christians flared in the Punjab town of Gojra. Extremist protesters alleged that the Holy Quran has been desecrated at a Christian wedding, which led to riots and violence in the town. Dozens of Christian homes were burnt, killing at least 7 people and injuring 18 others.

In response to the situation, CWS-P/A distributed food packages in two phases to 346 affected families who lost their homes. And of those, 70 most affected families also received mattresses, tarpaulins, and blankets.

For information on the CWS-P/A response to flooding in Rajanpur, see the Water, Sanitation, and the Environment section.





water, sanitation, and the environment

Assistance for Flood Affectees in Rajanpur

Following a flood in Rajanpur in late 2008, CWS-P/A mobilized a water, sanitation, and hygiene response to meet the needs of affected and vulnerable families.

Through the installation of 230 hand pumps in the area, 32,200 persons were provided improved drinking water. Women and children who used to have to collect water from long distances are now able to collect safe water in close proximity to their home. This dramatic improvement has freed up women to be able to focus on other important household priorities that promote the well-being of their entire family.

In addition, the community had little awareness about personal and domestic hygiene. However, following hygiene training sessions, men, women, and children began to practice improved hygiene in their day to day lives. CWS-P/A also observed that families are not only keeping their houses clean, but the entire environment in the surrounding area.

In 2009, CWS-P/A assisted more than 150,000 Pakistanis with water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.

Awareness Raising in Allai

Working in a consortium initiative with Save the Children US and Sungi Development Foundation, CWS-P/A extended its efforts in Allai Valley to raise awareness on hygiene, environmental issues, and education. In total, more than 10,100 children and youth participated in a variety of awareness raising initiatives.

During the course of the year an impact assessment was conducted, which identified the theater and puppet show awareness raising initiatives as the most effective with children. The assessment found that children learn from these activities in a playful manner and that healthy discussion was generated after each performance, allowing children to express their views and ask questions as well.

As a result of the awareness raising, the communities, particularly children, have increased their use of health and hygiene practices and are taking better care of their community and local environment. In addition, both teacher and student attendance in schools has increased.

In several schools, teachers have now created their own theater groups with the children promoting the sustainability of the project. Now these children are working as agents of positive change in their communities to improve water and sanitation, education, the environment, and other locally important issues.

Promoting Water Quality and Hygiene in Rawalakot

In response to some of the ongoing and long-term needs following the 2005 earthquake, CWS-P/A implemented a project impacting some 108,258 persons in 204 villages for improved water quality and hygiene in Azad Jamu and Kashmir. And while the project did not have any hardware component for the actual installation of water facilities, the purpose was to build upon the existing water structures in the Rawalakot area and to develop local capacity in hygiene and water management.

The hygiene awareness raising focus of the project included hygiene weeks, community walks, and hand washing demonstrations as well as school activities like quiz and speech competitions. In addition, the project relied on a variety of networks to raise awareness including partnerships with religious scholars.

A second focus of the project was to train water management committees in targeted areas. The trainings increased motivation for 1,922 committee members to repair and maintain their water supply systems. These efforts helped to increase community ownership and to develop permanent relationships with government line departments. And of the total project impact, more than 50 percent of the beneficiaries were women and children.



health

Refugee Support in Mansehra

After some 30 years of displacement from their homeland, some 1.7 million Afghans continue to seek refuge in Pakistan. And as Afghanistan continues to struggle to find peace, the refugees themselves best articulate their needs for return with the two most common answers: “livelihoods and security.”

In Mansehra, CWS-P/A is about to begin its 30th year of medical assistance, where 56,122 refugees still remain across three camps. An important achievement in 2009 was the high percentage of mothers who sought antenatal care in CWS-P/A clinics. More than 86 percent of mothers sought this support, and not a single neonatal death was reported. Additionally, there

was only one maternal death and two under-5 child deaths reported in all three camps during the year. And while 2008 numbers were well under expected targets, the death rates for infants and children decreased ten-fold from 2008 to 2009. CWS-P/A medical staff attribute this to the improved skills and efforts of the more than 375 community health volunteers in the camps.

In addition to the refugee population, CWS-P/A assists 5,000 to 6,000 host community members who live in close proximity to the camps. CWS-P/A believes that these kinds of integrated refugee and host community approaches are critical in maintaining acceptance for refugees in the local communities as the protracted situation continues – particularly since few refugees are returning.

Afghan Returnees in Nangarhar and Laghman

In seven targeted districts of the provinces of Nangarhar and Laghman, CWS-P/A health efforts continued for Afghan returnees along with others in the community. Of the more than 200,000 people covered by the program, returning refugees accounted for more than 80% of the population. And much of the health statistics either met or exceeded the target requirements for the communities, reflecting the quality work accomplished by CWS-P/A.

Most notably, there was not a single maternal death, still birth, or tuberculosis death during the last quarter of 2009. In addition, there was a 0% death rate from malaria during 2009 – reflecting the long-term commitment that CWS-P/A has made to prevent and treat malaria in these districts for years. And there was 0.05% death rate from acute respiratory infections among children under five. Such infections are the most important cause of infant and young children mortality, according to the World Health Organization.

Of the more than 113,000 patients that visited a CWS-P/A health care facility, the most common diseases reported were acute and chronic respiratory diseases and acute diarrheas. There was only a 0.2% death rate from diarrhea and the same rate for tuberculosis.



In the area of maternal and child health, CWS-P/A vaccinated 95% of children under one year of age and more than 5,300 women sought postnatal care – significantly exceeding the project target of 3,500. Lastly, as the ongoing program worked to address mental health needs in communities, all of the Nangharhar and Laghman CWS-P/A staff received training in mental health, and 83% of beneficiaries received such support.

In camps in Mansehra, infant and child death rates decreased ten-fold from 2008 to 2009 because of CWS-P/A's health program.

HIV and AIDS: Raising Awareness, Reducing Stigma

As part of a regional strategy, CWS-P/A continued its efforts in 2009 to raise awareness on HIV and AIDS with young people and rural organizations. And due to effective mobilization strategies – and the eagerness of some communities to learn about HIV – the attendance at awareness sessions far exceeded the planned number of participants. In one session alone, more than 120 youth attended, when only 50 participants were planned. Throughout the year, CWS-P/A held sessions with close to 1,100 participants to discuss gender dynamics and the issues surrounding HIV and AIDS in Pakistan.

In addition to raising awareness with school-age adolescents in educational institutions and at the community level, a key strategy of CWS-P/A was the multiplication of knowledge on HIV through “training of trainer sessions” with staff from rural organizations. The training, discussion, and exchange of ideas with key staff helped to raise awareness with new community networks and through the projects of other NGOs.

Outside Pakistan, CWS-P/A has expanded its impact to youth in Sri Lanka. Through awareness sessions, workshops, poster competitions, and pamphlets, the initiative increases the awareness of both teachers and students on HIV and AIDS.

In Pakistan, one of the best outcomes of the project has been the relationships formed between youth and people living with HIV. And for the first time by CWS-P/A, people living with HIV were invited to share their stories at the adolescent youth sessions.

Initially, the CWS-P/A team was a little anxious as to how the participants might respond, but there was little need for concern. During lunch the workshop participants openly ate together with the invited guests and asked them many questions. CWS-P/A staff feel that interactions like these greatly help in reducing stigma and discrimination against those living with HIV.





“it is a relief to talk with a woman”

Saleeha fled the conflict in the Swat Valley and received health services from CWS-P/A's mobile health unit

Her own words:

Before the war, I was living in Dir with my husband and three daughters. However, life for poor people is difficult anywhere; my husband is an Imam (Local cleric at a mosque), and with our meager income, we were struggling to make ends meet. In May, fighter planes were in the air, tanks on roads, and shelling started; I panicked as it was evening time and my girls were playing games on the rooftop of our home so I went upstairs to bring them down. At that moment, we got very scared. My husband and brother-in-law arrived in sometime and we decided to escape from Dir. It was a total of six families that walked down the mountains, and my husband decided that we should come to Mansehra. Here at Shiekhabad Village, our large group met with some locals and requested them to help us.

This semi-constructed house that you see was given to us by its owner who has yet to build it. Although its walls need to be made, we all moved here as we were desperate for shelter. To be honest, whoever these Taliban are, they have really been a huge nuisance for poor people of tribal agencies. Some of our landlords who befriended them made away with financial gains;

however, for poor families such as us, we were in hell back home and our conditions here are no different either.

However, I feel here we don't have to face the daily humiliation like back home at the hands of savages, who were hell-bent on making life miserable especially for children and women. In April, my cousin was really sick and she went to a local hospital. Can you imagine on her way back, some militants caught her and they beat her in public? What Islam is this? Is Islam only putting restrictions on women, and does it teach us to insult women all the time?

Since that event, we got so scared, that no women ever went out, and we stopped sending the children to school, too. I don't have a son; I have three daughters, and my eldest was studying in class 1; however, Taliban came to our neighborhood and informed us that those who will defy them and continue sending girls to school will be responsible for any further acts from them. Obviously, those inhuman men have only violence in their blood; I shudder to even think that any militant would look at my children so no school for her.

Since we came, the attitude of locals is not very welcoming; however, at least now I look forward to the regular visits of Afshan (CWS-P/A's Lady Health Worker working with a mobile health unit); she comes, sits with me on the ground, and does

not mind it. It is a relief to be able to talk with a woman, share my fears and burdens with her. All my daughters have fallen sick, one after the other, with heatstroke and vomiting. Afshan and this mobile health unit provide us with weekly checkups, and they also give us medicines for free.

In our situation, buying medicines would have been difficult so getting these medicines, checkups, and useful suggestions is a Godsend. Also, Afshan's visit gives me a chance to talk to someone. My husband spends the entire day in Mansehra doing odd jobs; he is now a daily wage laborer so sometimes at the end of the day, he returns with food for us. I really feel better with her supportive and kind attitude since here we are completely isolated.

I miss home very much, but I just got the bad news from my neighbors, who went back last week, that our house got destroyed so to what is there to look forward? We are not sure whether we should go back or stay here. Time will tell what our futures will bring, but I hope and pray that Pakistan Army gets rid of these militants who made our homeland a terrifying place where innocent blood continues to shed. Tribal areas are now a conflict-zone; innocent people get killed daily, and those who escape are mere slaves at the hands of Taliban, so what to do?

Story reported by Saadia Haq.

education

Afghanistan: Promoting Girls' Education

Acknowledging that education, particularly girls' education, is critical for the development of Afghanistan, CWS-P/A has continued to work to increase the attendance of girls in eleven targeted schools in Qarghayi District of Laghman Province. After a thorough needs assessment, CWS-P/A provided the necessary textbooks to 3,150 girls along with story books and stationary packages for 1,650 girls in classes 1-6. In some cases, many of these girls had previously dropped out because their families could not afford the basic supplies to attend school. In total, 1,352 girls were enrolled in school.

And while the increase in attendance numbers is significant, often times it is the quiet interventions that can have the most sustainable impact. In the communities surrounding the targeted Laghman schools, CWS-P/A has not only increased the number of female students, but it also has strengthened the quality of education through school rehabilitations and parent-teacher groups. In addition, 117 local teachers have been trained in new teaching methodologies and practices to enhance their ability to teach – directly impacting the students in their classes everyday.

CWS-P/A continues to build upon its history of training more than 2,300 teachers.

Rehabilitating Afghanistan's War-Affected Children

In a country that has endured decades of war, CWS-P/A worked to address the mental, social, and education needs of highly vulnerable and war-affected children in Afghanistan. In the village of Sarkh-Ool – a small impoverished community outside Bamyan – CWS-P/A sponsored a children's rehabilitation center that serves as a haven for children with severely limited opportunities.

After almost a year-long break, the children's center was re-opened to 100 children (50 girls and 50 boys) with new funds. Key priorities for children include life skills, group trauma therapy, and hygiene lessons along with primary education. In all of the efforts, the local community has been central, both in selecting the children who are most in need and in following up with parents on key messages like public school attendance and health.

Pakistan: Empowering Teachers, Impacting Students

Over the past eight years, CWS-P/A has continuously worked to improve the education of students by strengthening the skills of teachers in Pakistan. In 2009, CWS-P/A held workshop sessions with more than 60 teachers – building on its long-term experience of training more than 2,300 teachers.

Workshops and participatory training have sought to transform the teacher role from being just a passive observer to a more full role as an active educator. In addition, training efforts worked to increase the self-assurance levels of teachers as well as their participation and enthusiasm for teaching.

In Sindh Province, CWS-P/A supported six schools that provide primary education to 1,500 underprivileged children. Newly trained teachers expanded the curriculum to cover topics including the sciences, mathematics, and art along with themes like human rights. In order to teach these topics, teachers employed new creative teaching tools – such as puppetry – to encourage critical reasoning skills.

And while learning benefits were certainly experienced by children in Sindh, education efforts did not stop with them, but extended to the whole family and entire communities. Parents, and mothers in particular, were organized into groups to raise awareness on the importance of gender rights and hygiene. And as families began to integrate this new knowledge into their behavior, others in the community became indirect beneficiaries as they too adopted new thinking on social topics such as the value of girls' education.

For more on the political and peace education efforts, see the Peace and Governance section.



“teacher, doctor, or an engineer”

Farzana rejoined a CWS-P/A supported school in Laghman, Afghanistan

“My father is a poor farmer and he cannot afford to buy the books, stationary and school clothes that I need to attend school,” said Farzana. With five brothers and three sisters, she was forced to quit school indefinitely after class 5.

And when Farzana left school, her father promised her that she would have his blessing to attend – if the family could find a way to support her.

“My family has an economy problem; otherwise I have the full support of my family to study,” shared Farzana.

Hundreds of girls in the district, like Farzana, had to drop out until CWS-P/A began its multi-year education project for girls.

Now that she has returned to school, Farzana says she is very keen to study and that she wants to get an education.

“I think that knowledge is good for everyone and I like to study,” she noted.

“I want to study through class 12, but it depends on if my family can afford my school expenses,” she added. Many other girls share similar ambitions, clearly demonstrating their commitment to support the development of Afghanistan.

Despite the future challenges she will face, she confidently said, “When I graduate, I will be a doctor, a teacher, or an engineer. It will help my poor father.”

Story reported by Sidney Traynham.



livelihoods

Cultivating Household Food Security in Sindh

In the districts of Mirpurkhas and Umerkot in Sindh, CWS-P/A extended its innovative efforts to encourage sustainable food production and develop livelihoods at the household level for some 3,000 families. And through the community-based empowerment efforts – that expand to 1,500 new families each year – previously marginalized families now realize improved harvest yields, start new small businesses, manage livestock, and can access education for their children.

In Umerkot District, seed distribution and training resulted in a more than doubling of maize and sunflower crop output. In Mirpurkhas, the founding of self-help savings groups has created opportunities for women to open small shops or purchase sewing machines. Another central aspect of the projects – in order to build long-term community ownership – was the development of three farming resource centers and seed banks, where farmers can share ideas, return seeds back to the community, and learn of new opportunities.

Another key issue in the targeted area was the scarcity of water. And in order to address this challenge, CWS-P/A helped communities to construct 27 water storage ponds in 12 communities to help with the irrigation of their crops.

Through all the interventions, CWS-P/A has offered support, training and resources to ensure success down to the household level. In addition, CWS-P/A continues to create linkages between communities and local governance to ensure future sustainability.

The overall outcome of these household-based development efforts has been significant measurable changes in community agriculture and livelihood development. Wheat, maize, mustard, and sunflower crop yields have all increased 60 percent as a result of better seeds, irrigation from ponds, and natural fertilizer. Other measurable changes have been the 90 percent increase in the adoption of food preservation practices and a 30-40 percent increase in households eating two full meals per day. And families have been able to decrease their dependence on money lenders by 10 percent.

Lastly, the partnership between targeted minority groups including Christians and Hindus has helped foster new interfaith relationships and opportunities for minorities to better realize their rights together.

Empowering Livelihoods for Women

In addition to some of the Mirpurkhas food security and livelihood efforts, CWS-P/A has expanded its support of economic and social development for women in the district.

An additional seventy women received small loans (around US\$35), which helped them to start their own small businesses. Utilizing their newly acquired skills and knowledge gained through training and capacity building activities, the majority of women started businesses in selling hand-made products, such as handicrafts, embroideries, and decoration pieces. The average monthly income from their business generated



between US\$12 and \$24, which brought a 30-40 percent increase in monthly family income.

In 2009, CWS-P/A worked to offer women opportunities to attain their own independent livelihoods – to not only empower them economically but also socially. With their own incomes, women are now able to take an increased role in household and community level decision making. In their family, their opinion is given greater importance, as they have acquired basic literacy and awareness on important issues. Similarly, through self-help groups, women are now able to raise their voice collectively for the betterment of the community and take action to solve social issues.

Another key aspect to the work has been to provide livestock management training to 28 women. Awareness was raised on how to prevent diseases, the importance of vaccinations, and how to keep a hygienic environment. CWS-P/A

has observed fewer livestock deaths amongst the communities along with improved animal health.

Additionally, families in the community that were not direct recipients of the project were inspired by the success of the direct project participants. Some of these rural women have started involving themselves in similar income generation activities like small businesses and kitchen gardening to improve their economic condition by seeking advice from the self-help group members.

Expanding Dairy Production

In addition to the livelihood support in Sindh, CWS-P/A also implemented a model dairy farm initiative for 260 women-headed households in Balakot in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The dairy farm has introduced a community space to model best practices and new ideas for local farmers, particularly women, to improve their incomes and knowledge.

CWS-P/A staff report that milk production has increased by 15 percent in the project area as a result of the capacity building efforts. And project participants have started marketing surplus milk produced by their livestock and earning extra income for their families, which has positively contributed to their socio-economic improvement. This increase in income combined with participatory trainings for women has resulted in increased confidence and a common voice for community engagement.

A central component of the livelihood intervention has been the training of veterinary extension workers to provide assistance both on behalf of the project participants and the entire community, which ensure the health of the livestock and the long-term strength of the project. In addition to capacity building, the veterinarian workers vaccinated animals belonging to 3,000 households last year.

Multiplying Work for Food in Afghanistan

One of the best examples of CWS-P/A's multiplication efforts in Afghanistan has been the creation of food for work programs that enable communities to rebuild local infrastructure and improve their long-term prospects for local agricultural production.

In Zabul Province, CWS-P/A engaged 2,000 families in food for work activities to clean and repair the karez irrigation systems. The rehabilitation of these canal networks through 16,388 man days of effective labor resulted in an additional 3,700 hectares of agriculturally productive land because of the increase in irrigation. In addition, the distribution of improved seeds resulted in a 250 percent increase in food output.

In a global climate of rising food prices, the increase in local production in Zabul, due to better seeds and irrigation, not only improved the incomes of farmers, but also had the additional positive effect of driving down food prices for local consumers.



Advocating for Small Farmers Rights in Punjab

In the second year of this two-year project, CWS-P/A carried out new efforts to organize and advocate on the issues facing tomato and sugarcane growers in Punjab Province. After liaison sessions with 600 farmers, reports were converted into multimedia presentations that were presented at public events attended by more than 3,000 persons from academia, the media, civil society, and political parties.

The project interventions and team efforts were quick to generate a response from key officials and policy makers. The project team was contacted by officials with the Punjab Department of Agriculture and Punjab Agriculture Marketing Board. In these meetings, the possibilities of initiatives that could help address some important problems faced by the small farmers were discussed in-depth, and the project team secured promises to provide support to tackle the highlighted issues. CWS-P/A is currently seeking additional funding to be able to follow-through on this initial effort.

Livelihood Development for Reintegrated Refugees

As some Afghan refugees do return home, CWS-P/A works to assist them to redevelop their livelihoods and communities. In the districts of Dand and Daman in Kandahar Province, CWS-P/A implemented a cash-for-work program

with more than 1,750 laborers, both skilled and unskilled.

Working an average of more than 30 days of labor each, laborers were employed in canal cleaning and road graveling works. Through the course of the project, 39.6 kilometers of link roads were rehabilitated, which benefited 5,665 farming families who now have better access to markets, hospital, and education facilities. In addition, some 15 kilometers of large irrigation canals

CWS-P/ A cash-for-work efforts improved the irrigation for 2,535 farming families in Afghanistan.

were cleaned and de-silted, which has benefitted 2,535 farming families and helped to irrigate 840 additional hectares of agricultural land.

While the day laborer opportunities were for men in the communities, 130 women were trained in cross-cutting issues including human rights and the importance of gender in the development process.

Also, 90 women received vocational training in tailoring and embroidery, and after completion of the training, they were provided with basic materials to start domestic income generation activities. Market linkages were then initiated for new products produced by the women to increase their opportunity for further income generation.



“we have resources now”

Danjee was doing well in school until his parents had to make a difficult choice: paying for his commute to school or putting food on the table

“My wife, Kahuo, and I had been going through rough times and the rising cost of living made it difficult for us to survive,” said Wukji a farmer, who goes only by his first name. “I also did not have access to good quality seeds and fertilizers making it even harder for me to feed my family.”

In many rural areas of Pakistan, people lack the basic farming necessities and become further trapped in poverty as they remain indebted to powerful landowners. While designing and implementing food security projects in the districts of Mirpurkhas and Umerkot in the province of Sindh, CWS-P/A worked to identify families who were most vulnerable and in greatest need of community-based livelihood assistance. Kahuo

and Wukji’s family was quickly selected along with eleven additional households in Togachi Village. These families have experienced improved nutrition while women have been mobilized to start their own small-scale businesses with CWS-P/A’s support.

“Since I received training from the farming resource center and Kahuo became a member of the village development group, we have seen a change in our lives,” shared Wukji. “I am thankful for the wheat and mustard seeds I received and due to their good quality there is increased productivity. With the help of the seed bank and bio-Neem compost, farmers in my village have increased their yield.”

With the distribution of wheat and mustard seeds totaling more than 80 kilograms per household, the seed bank has become sustainable as farmers have been returning more seeds back each year. Their commitment to the resource center has helped to ensure that the seed bank continues to revolve. And farmers have been cultivating as 3 to 4 acres more than they previously did. They also appreciate the sense of unity that the farming resource center has developed amongst them.

Long periods of drought in these districts have contributed to food scarcity. Through CWS-P/A food security projects, disadvantaged families in the districts of Mirpurkhas and Umerkot are now equipped to deal with the increasingly difficult climatic conditions. The construction of village irrigation ponds in addition to the training and maintenance given to farmers has assisted in providing access to better nutrition.

“Prices are indeed rising but we feel we are saving now,” noted Wukji. “Recently we purchased two goats and my animal feed preservation training is an additional savings for us. As these goats grow, I know we will earn more income – maybe as much as Rs. 20,000 to 30,000 (US\$235 to \$353).”

“We have resources now and we save because I grow vegetables in our backyard I am thankful that I do not have to travel to the market anymore,” said Kahuo.

Their past choice to substitute education for food was at the cost of a bright future for their son. Wukji explained, “To this day, my wife and I feel bad that we had to take Danjee out of school for a year and that we had to make that difficult choice. But now this is no longer the case because our son is back at school.”

Danjee is currently in class 9.

Story reported by Donna Fernandes.



peace and governance

Promoting Good Governance

Promoting Good Governance (PGG), formerly known as Capacity Building Program for Peoples Organizations (CBPPO), is a long standing and mature CWS-P/A program that has found its niche in the development sector. Quality time was invested in 2009 to revise and repackage the activities in order to improve the approach.

Based on learning and experiences of previous years and taking on board recommendations of an impact study and internal and external evaluations, the program has shifted its focus from the individual to the institutional level in the capacity development of civil society organizations. In its new structure, the program aims to not only develop the capacities of individuals, but to strengthen organizational, management, and governance structures of organizations based on a deeper engagement with civil society in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The broad approach of the project has been to institutionalize training and capacity development, knowledge building, helping organizations make necessary step-change, adjust organizational postures to political structures, and to strengthen advocacy and lobbying to influence policy and local government decision-making processes.

Aside from the PGG restructuring process in 2009, CWS-P/A continued to make a tangible and unique difference in the lives of organizations. One such example included a workshop on

leadership and management for Afghan NGO managers organized in joint collaboration with the Social Enterprises Development Centre of the Lahore University of Management Sciences (SEDC – LUMS). The workshop was designed to help employees develop comprehensive management and leadership skills in order to help position their organizations to meet future challenges.

It was a major achievement to hold the training in collaboration with SEDC – LUMS, as it is one of the most prestigious educational institutions in Pakistan. And the workshop was the first of its kind designed by CWS-P/A for Afghan organizations to link with Pakistani organizations – and included participants from Kabul, Herat, and Kunduz in Afghanistan and Sindh and Punjab in Pakistan.

Another intervention organized by CWS-P/A involved a series of six sessions on “Sexual Harassment and its Legal Remedies” during the last quarter of 2009 in six major cities. The six gatherings of a total of 414 civil society representatives, lawyers, academics, and media personnel aimed to create broader awareness of sexual harassment and gender at institutional levels. These thematic sessions contributed to larger campaign by civil society organizations to get a bill passed on sexual harassment in the workplace in early 2010.

And as a continuation of its work in theater-based social mobilization and advocacy, CWS-P/A conducted training for 32 participants from two theater groups to enhance their skills in script writing, identifying social issues, and acting.

Lastly, in a “Conflict Prevention and Interfaith Harmony” workshop, participants reviewed the historical, economic, and socio-political factors that have affected interfaith harmony. The workshop additionally focused on the role of civil society in creating interfaith harmony among its communities. Participants were provided knowledge to help the victims of interfaith disharmony in breaking the cycle of victimhood and violence. And through theoretical and practical examples, participants were motivated to become role models for their communities.

Strengthening Democracy Voices from the Margins

CWS-P/A continued its multi-pronged approach to strengthen democratic structures and empower the democratic rights of marginalized and minority groups. During this political crisis in Pakistan, the key objectives for the project were carried out and included the increase of participation of marginalized groups in the mainstream political process and the building of a strong coalition of civil society actors that demand more democratic governance.

The project consortium was able to successfully implement the objectives of the project by modifying its plan according to the situation of the country.

By relying on its extensive network of partners and creative methodologies, significant achievements were made to reach out to various stakeholders. CWS-P/A held 11 district seminars on the census process with more than 500 participants. Seven city forums were held on the democratic process, which were attended by more than 1,000 people. Community theater groups carried out performances for 1,250 participants, utilizing creativity as a means to interactive discussion on democratic rights.

During a time of great political transition, CWS-P/A continued to strengthen the democratic engagement of minorities and marginalized groups.

Most importantly, CWS-P/A's coalition building efforts encouraged the state authority to participate in open discussions with civil society groups to improve the census by keeping the basic democratic rights of minority groups in view. As a result of the efforts in 2009, CWS-P/A began to help open a new political arena, which every citizen can access.

Promoting Political Education in Sindh

CWS-P/A continued to carry out its long-term political education project for youth in Sindh. The program is an initiative that draws on the energy, enthusiasm, and talents of resource persons to inspire and educate teachers and young people from the local and rural communities of Sindh Province.

As part of the project, CWS-P/A held two workshops with more than 115 youth from Karachi and Hyderabad on human rights, child rights, communal harmony, gender rights, good governance, and peace. In addition, two summer camps focusing on similar themes were held for 125 students from various parts of Sindh. The workshops and camp work to create an opportunity for dialogue and discussion among students and to develop capacity for understanding key social, political, and economic issues.

Peace Education in Primary Schools

CWS-P/A helped 25 interior Sindh teachers to formulate strategies for incorporating peace considerations into different activities of their schools. The project which focused on enhancing knowledge and understanding of the teachers on the subject of peace-making and peace-keeping was not limited to the capacity building of only the teachers, but it also involved imparting the knowledge to the students themselves.

Teachers taught peace education as part of their weekly efforts with their students. During their teaching, they focus on peace, conflict resolution,

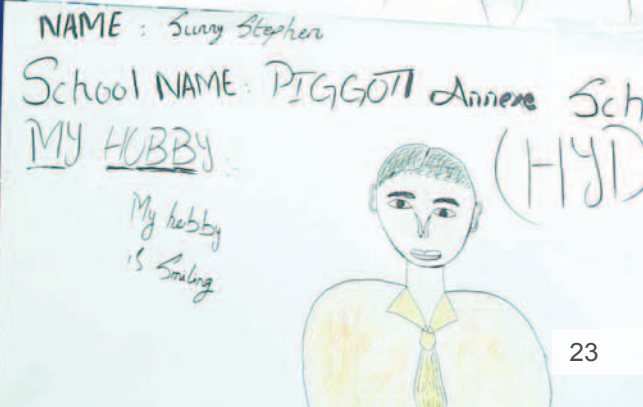
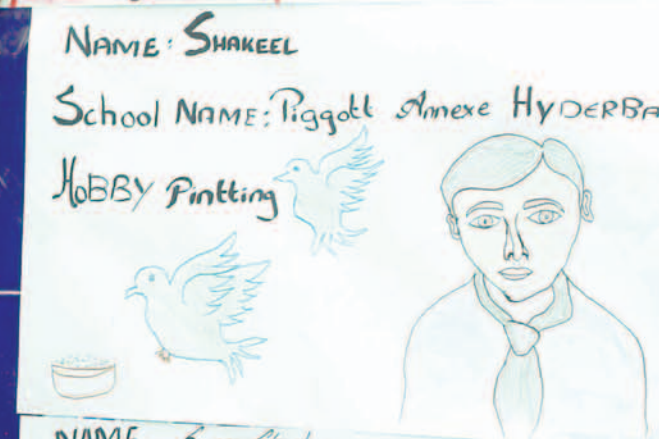
human rights, child rights, and gender. As a result, peace education has helped to establish quality, child-friendly learning environments that are rights-based, gender-sensitive, healthy and safe for children, protective of them and successful in helping them to learn. In addition, the peace education curriculum has promoted respect and better understanding among students for each other - not only in the classrooms but also in their families and communities as a whole.

Local Capacities for Peace

Through a unique opportunity to develop its own capacity, CWS-P/A continued to implement a "Local Capacities for Peace" initiative that focused on improving knowledge, skill, and understanding of peace. And as Pakistan's conflict in the northwest continued to spread in 2009, the efforts became particularly relevant.

In two workshops carried out for CWS-P/A staff and partners, which included upper management, participants were encouraged to incorporate peace principles into their projects, even from the proposal development phase. As one example, the key principle of "do no harm" was studied in terms of its effect on ethics, markets, and power dynamics in communities.

With more than 50 staff participating, the workshops were an important opportunity for CWS-P/A to mainstream peace knowledge and skills in new ways as part of the regional initiative.



quality and accountability

Asia and Pacific: Strengthening Humanitarian Assistance

Just as CWS-P/A responds directly to disasters, it also works to strengthen the capacity of humanitarian actors across Asia and the Pacific. This work increases both the standards-based quality and the accountability of aid groups.

With a combined training approach that brings together learning from the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) and humanitarian standards known as the Sphere Project, CWS-P/A developed the capacity of

522 humanitarian workers in 2009. Participants included staff from local and international NGOs, UN agencies, and governments, along with members of local communities.

This year CWS-P/A further expanded its work in strengthening humanitarian assistance outside of Afghanistan and Pakistan and conducted workshops and trainings with humanitarian workers in Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

In Sri Lanka, a CWS-P/A assessment team discovered significant demand for humanitarian standards training amongst local and international

NGO staff. And following the assessment, CWS-P/A held three trainings across the country and increased knowledge particularly in the area of integrating quality and accountability into project planning.

In Pakistan, CWS-P/A secured funding from the UN to conduct training on Sphere standards during the massive IDP response. And as a key promoter for HAP, CWS-P/A continues to serve as a leader for improving the accountability of the humanitarian community to the very people it exists to serve.



about CWS-P/A

Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS-P/A) is an international non-governmental organization, which implements humanitarian and development activities across Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Since 1954, CWS-P/A has worked for the development and relief of marginalized communities on the basis that all individuals irrespective of race, faith, color, sex, economic status, or political opinion have the right to choose how to live. CWS-P/A assists communities to achieve economic prosperity and improve human and social capital through participatory endeavors, which liberate families and enhance their capacities to take control over their lives.

From the first office in Karachi, CWS-P/A quickly diversified from running solely social development projects to encompassing capacity building and disaster management. Today, the thematic priorities for CWS-P/A include:

- Emergency Response
- Water, Sanitation, and the Environment
- Health
- Education
- Livelihoods
- Peace and Governance
- Quality and Accountability

Currently, CWS-P/A operates from its head office in Karachi and additional offices in Islamabad, Lahore, Mansehra, and Swat in Pakistan and Jalalabad and Kabul in Afghanistan. It also runs a training center in Murree, Pakistan. All of its projects are organized out of its three programs: Capacity Building Program (CBP), Disaster Management Program (DMP), Social Development Program (SDP).

Globally, CWS-P/A is part of CWS, Inc. and is registered with both the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan. In 2005, CWS-P/A received ISO 9001:2000 accreditation and the following year was awarded USAID management standards certification. CWS-P/A is a member of the ACT Alliance.

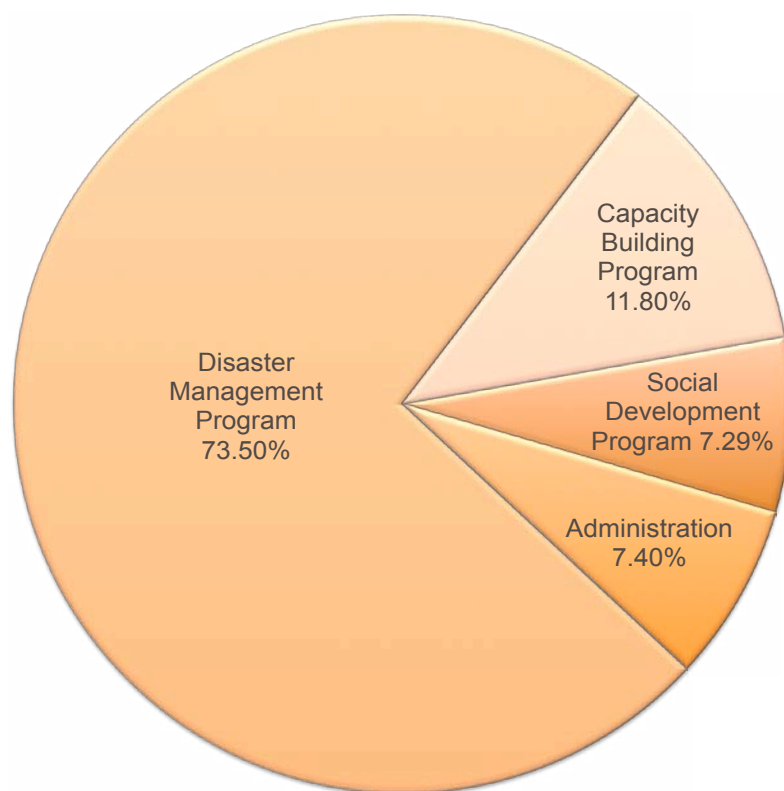


2009 financial statement

January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

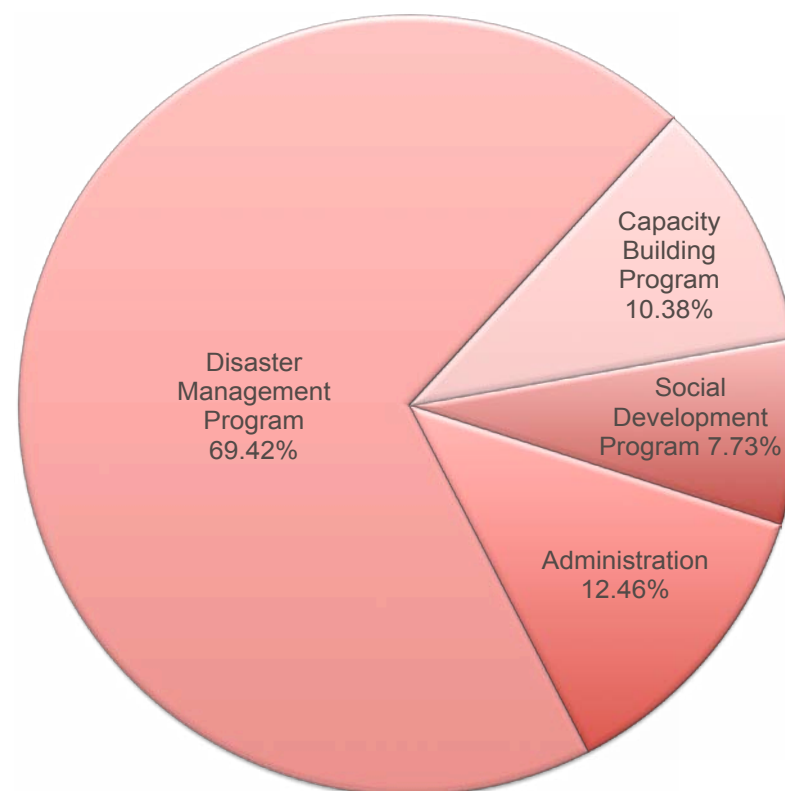
income by program

PKR 538,166,348.73



expenses by program

PKR 531,886,448.09



Auditors: Ernst & Young, BDO Ebrahim & Co., Parkar Randell Limited

donors and partners

- Act for Peace - Australia
- ActionAid
- Afghans for Afghans
- Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
- Aim for Human Rights - Netherlands
- Airline Ambassadors International
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Caritas Australia
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Christian Aid
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian World Service - New Zealand
- Church of Scotland
- Church of Sweden
- Church World Service, Inc.
- Concern Worldwide
- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO)
- Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED)
- FELM - Finland
- German Foundation for World Population (DSW)
- Global Ministries (Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ)
- Justice and Peace - Netherlands
- Interactive Resource Centre (IRC)
- Helvetas Afghanistan
- Lutheran World Relief (LWR)
- Methodist Church of Great Britain
- Misereor - Germany
- Pakistan National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- Oxfam Novib
- Pakistan Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA)
- People on a Mission - Netherlands
- Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWSD)
- Royal Netherlands Embassy in Pakistan
- The Sphere Project
- Save the Children
- Seeds Asia
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- United Church of Christ (UCC)
- United Methodist Committed on Relief (UMCOR)
- U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Vision International
- U.K. Department for International Development (DFID)
- U.S. Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA/USAID)
- U.S. State Department Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)

memberships

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certifications





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