



CWS-P/A distributed warm clothing packages to children in Kabul during the harsh winter.

Editor's Message

Dear Readers:

Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan's (CWS-P/A) January to April, 2009 newsletter contains news about our ongoing projects and activities as well as addresses two key issues, Disaster Risk Reduction and capacity building.

Pakistan and Afghanistan face challenges including food security, healthcare, and education. CWS-P/A works with marginalized and vulnerable communities to develop the capacity and resources necessary to overcome the myriad of challenges. News from CWS-P/A shares some of our achievements from the past four months.

Our suggested viewing section highlights our newly produced documentary, *Balakot Safe Housing Project*. The related project provided prefabricated houses to survivors from the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. We also introduce our long-term partner, SUNGI Development Foundation, in our Partner's Profile section.

In this edition, we also highlight the tenth anniversary of one of our programs as well as introduce our newest department.

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



CWS-P/A

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CWS-P/A Assisted Earthquake Survivors with Livelihood Opportunities

April

Three and a half years after the South Asian earthquake hit Azad Kashmir and the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) in Pakistan, a need for rebuilding the lives of affected communities existed. CWS-P/A designed its project, Construction Trade Training Center (CTTC), with this need in mind. Through courses at CTTC, men from the affected communities received skills training in five trades including masonry, carpentry, electrical work, welding, and plumbing.

With the financial support of Christian Aid (CA), CWS-P/A built two CTTCs, one in Mansehra (NWFP) and in Muzaffarabad (Azad Jammu Kashmir). A total of two-hundred ninety-eight local men received training in the five different trades. Courses consisted of 20% theory and 80% practical work, five days a week and eight hours a day for forty working days.

At the end of the training, each trainee also received a tool kit suitable for his trade. Additionally, the CTTC graduates earned government approved certificates.

CWS-P/A's team recommended the trainees to government and other line departments for employment. The attainment of employment and income generation validated the



overwhelming response from the trainees in Muzaffarabad. Even prior to training completion, a number of trainees found jobs in their local area. In Mansehra, many Afghan refugees who received trainings at the CTTC also returned to Afghanistan and have found proper jobs.

Through CTTC, individuals gained the skills necessary to find work while the community at-large acquired the capacity to rebuild what was lost in the 2005 earthquake. Although the project's end is May 2009, the sustainable results remain endless.

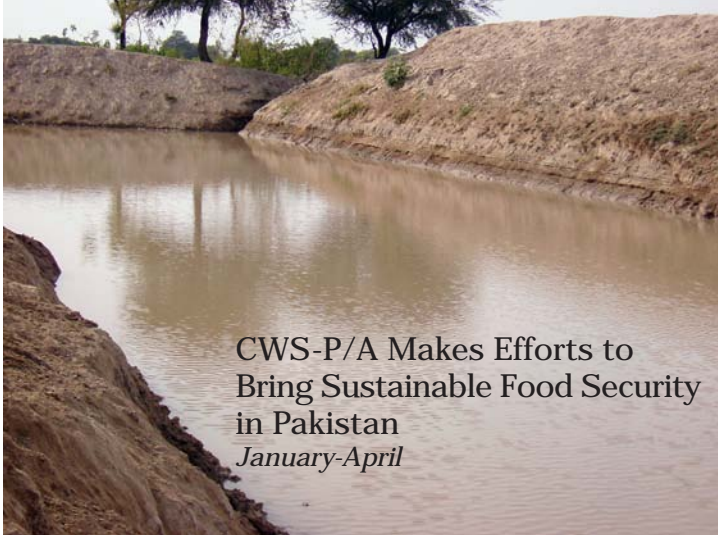
HIV Workshop in Sri Lanka

April

Under the HIV & AIDS Education Program in Schools in Sri Lanka*, an awareness workshop on HIV & AIDS was held for teachers on April 1, 2009 at the YMCA base in Kalmunai, an eastern province in Sri Lanka. Eleven teachers from ten different schools participated in the workshop. Dr. Nadarajah Ramesh, a Medical Officer of Health (MOH) at the Kalmunai Base Hospital, conducted the workshop. The teachers attended the HIV awareness workshop so that they could conduct similar awareness sessions for children in their respective schools. A variety of teaching methodologies were used during the workshop which included group discussions, multi-media presentations, and information materials were distributed. Toward the end of the workshop, the participants received certificates.



* This program was implemented in partnership with Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA -SL).



CWS-P/A Makes Efforts to Bring Sustainable Food Security in Pakistan
January-April

Nearing the end of its second year, the Mirpurkhas Food Security Project (MFSP) initiatives equipped male and female community members with the knowledge and skills necessary to continue working toward food security. Over the past four months, community members participated in animal feed preservation training which addressed essential issues including awareness of feed preservation, usage of stored feed, and awareness of local, fresh animal feed. By asking questions and providing feedback, the participants showed their keen interest in sustaining their livelihood.

Additionally, MFSP addressed women's needs through skill training that aimed to motivate members of the Self Help Group (SHG) to start small businesses at the village level. The forum also allowed women to discuss other community issues which included health and education. The women who participate in SHG also demonstrate an increased decision-making power that contributes to their individual families.

More recently, in December 2008, CWS-P/A started a new food security project in Umerkot. In the first four months, five irrigation ponds were constructed while 360 beneficiaries received sunflower seeds. The SHG already started saving money and plans to provide a loan to the most deserving member in the near future which will initiate the group's income generation activities. Women are also actively participating in community training. Twenty-four women attended community gardening while an overwhelming 283 women participated in vegetable preservation training.

By providing the communities with the resources and skills for sustainable livestock and agricultural production, CWS-P/A helps bring food security to areas of Pakistan that have been living below the security level for an extended length of time. These areas suffer from food insecurity for a multitude of reasons including drought, poor irrigation systems, and intimidation from landowners. Bringing food security through self-sustainable food sources as well as income generation activities allows the communities to improve their access to other life-improving services including healthcare and education.

Children Give Passionate Performances at the Youth Festival in Mirpurkhas

February

On February 15, 2009, through speeches, role plays, folk dances, and other activities, sixty youth displayed their knowledge of social issues including health, hygiene, poverty, unemployment, child marriage, and education. The participating youth groups came from Rawalpindi, Sukkur, Tando Allah Yar, Mirpurkhas, Hyderabad, and Rahim Yar Khan to participate in the Youth Festival in Rattanabad Village, Mirpurkhas. Enthusiastic performances brought the audience consisting of community members, NGOs, schools, and local government officials to tears.



CWS-P/A and its implementing partner, Parkari Community Development Project (PCDP), organized the event to share information on key social issues with the community and also to promote confidence development in the participating youth. The audience's appreciation and the youths' spectacular performances demonstrated the accomplishment of the event's purposes.

CWS-P/A Hosts Dinner to Strengthen Working Relationships in Afghanistan

February

On February 25, 2009, Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS-P/A) invited partners, government authorities, donors, and staff to a dinner in Kabul. CWS-P/A saw an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the various participants and to discuss the common interest of serving the Afghan people. Through informal discussions on relevant topics, the various guests developed a sense of improved ability to collaborate on common goals.

During the event, CWS-P/A's Deputy Director, Mansoor Raza, interviewed Mr. Sarwar Hussaini, Deputy Minister of Education for Literacy and Informal Education. The interview focused on girls' education, an area requiring significant improvements throughout Afghanistan and the focus on a new CWS-P/A project.

Warm Clothes Distributed to Children in Kabul *January*



"I am so happy that this is the first time in life I got warm clothes in winter and also am receiving different stationery and other basic life necessities," expressed Morsel, a widow's son. He further added, "I wish this organization will continue to help needy orphans like myself, as we are living in so many difficulties."

Based on an assessment of the most-vulnerable children, CWS-P/A distributed clothing packages in Kabul, Afghanistan through several organizations dedicated to working with orphaned, disabled, and street-working children. The packages included hats, sweaters, vests, mittens, socks, and blankets in order to provide the children with appropriate clothing for the harsh, winter weather.

In Afghanistan, approximately six million children experience smuggling, abduction, hard labor, and lack of education opportunities according to the government. In other words, half of Afghanistan's children do not have the chance for a quality childhood. Forced into child labor, Afghanistan's children are growing up long before their peers in other countries. Facing this harsh reality is particularly difficult for orphans or children without support at home. For this reason, a simple gesture such as providing warm clothes means much to these children because it signifies hope and encouragement.

Additionally, under the warm clothing distribution initiative, CWS-P/A wanted to encourage children to study and pursue an education. Therefore, stationery including notebooks, pens, and pencils were added to the clothing packages.

CWS-P/A Nominated to the ACT Gender Advisory Committee

March

In March 2009, CWS-P/A's program advisor, Mahnaz Rahman, accepted her nomination to the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Gender Advisory Committee. Mahnaz dedicated the past six and a half years to working with CWS-P/A. Her commitment and sincere interest in gender issues earned her the opportunity to represent CWS-P/A at the international level, particularly with ACT.

The Gender Advisory Committee's role is to assist in disseminating and promoting use of the ACT International Gender Policy. Additionally, the Committee will work for the systematic use and implementation of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action (2006), thus, emphasizing the importance of gender policy principles during emergency programming. The selected members also promote good practices and experience sharing related to the fulfillment of ACT's six gender principles.

CWS-P/A also has representatives in four other ACT groups. Through the nominated staff, CWS-P/A works closely with ACT on gender, accountability, security, capacity development, and protection.

A Partnership that Promotes Proposal Writing Skills' Development

January



Recognizing a need for capacity building with regard to proposal writing for submission to the European Commission (EC), Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS-P/A) joined efforts with German Foundation for World Population (DSW) to conduct a three-day workshop, "Accessing EC Funding for Reproductive Health Programs." Twelve participants from national and

international organizations attended the training in Rawalpindi, Pakistan from January 12-14, 2009.

If asked why they do not pursue EC funding, many participants addressed issues such as not understanding the EC guidelines, failed previous proposal submissions, and apprehension if they had not applied in the past. One participant shared, "Earlier I had submitted a proposal to access EC funding which was rejected. I made it a priority to participate in this workshop, to build my professional capacity for proposal writing skills. After the three-day learning, I am returning back to my organization with clear concept and useful tips for developing an effective proposal." The workshop incorporated various sessions, but two topics, analyzing proposal writing and an evaluation of common mistakes during proposal development for EC funds, received particular emphasis.

The January workshop was the second CWS-P/A conducted in collaboration with DSW. The facilitator, Matthias Brucker, Resource Analyst for DSW, also facilitated CWS-P/A's "Proposal Development under EC Guidelines" that was held in May 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. Through partnership, CWS-P/A continued its effort to bring valuable training and skills to the region. Follow-up and communication after the training provided the participants of both workshops with a resource for information sharing and advice related to EC funding possibilities.



Fate of the Health Facilities in Earthquake Affected Areas

January

"World Health Organization is going to form a combined Task Force Committee in collaboration with Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan and other partners. This committee will play an active role in lobbying with the international donors for grants for health projects that will help to address the gaps for the priority area of continued healthcare facilities in these regions," stated Dr. Bille, Country Representative, World Health Organization (WHO) in a consultative meeting.

CWS-P/A organized the event in collaboration with the WHO at the WHO office in Islamabad on January 26, 2009. The theme for this meeting was "Fate of the Health Facilities in Earthquake Affected Areas" in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Azad Kashmir.

The meeting aimed to bring together donors and international and national NGOs to brainstorm ideas and actions for the sustainability of healthcare facilities in the affected regions. Thirty-five participants including CWS-P/A's health project team, representatives from health departments from NWFP and Azad Kashmir, and some donors discussed the future strategy for provision of healthcare facilities to the earthquake affectees of the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan.

The participants conceived and discussed ideas of how to support the existing facilities and also the challenges faced during related interventions.

The audience also viewed two video documentaries produced by CWS-P/A on its health programs, one on the 2005 earthquake program in Pakistan and the other on the Afghan repatriation program.

CWS-P/A Develops a Workbook for Peace Education

April

CWS-P/A organized an introductory workshop for teachers in Mirpurkhas, Sindh from April 14-16, 2009. Twenty-five participants representing twenty-two schools from villages in Mirpurkhas attended the workshop which introduced CWS-P/A's workbook for peace education developed under the project, Peace Education for Primary Schools (PEPS).

Most of the schools that will benefit from the workbook were started by community-based organizations or non-governmental organizations. In order to fill an existing gap in our national curriculum, CWS-P/A promotes the inclusion of peace education as part of the curriculum taught in schools, which is crucial in order to sustain harmony in Pakistan. In addition to introducing the workbook, the workshop introduced key social topics including conflict resolution, gender, human rights, and child rights.



Working Toward an Improved Census in Pakistan

April

CWS-P/A along with three consortium members, National Commission of Justice and Peace (NCJP), Interactive Resource Centre (IRC), and Minority Rights Commission (MRC) organized a consultative workshop on marginalized groups and the Pakistan Population and Housing Census.

The one-day event was held on April 30, 2009 in Lahore and is part of the project, Strengthening Democracy—Voices from the Margin.

The first consultative workshop aimed to bring civil society members together to share previous experiences in the Census and to recommend ways to improve the process. Particular emphasis was placed on the inclusive of marginalized groups including women, religious minorities, gypsies, and physically challenged individuals in the upcoming Census planned by the government of Pakistan in October 2009.

The fifty-seven participants including civil society members and media received information about the current Census process by the Chief Census Commissioner. Other speakers shared their knowledge about particular marginalized groups and how their

inclusion would drastically improve the accuracy of the Census and its potential affect on developmental policy. One example was that the gypsy communities in Punjab are not included in the Census at all, which means that approximately half a million people are excluded. This is only the number from one marginalized group; the impact of including all excluded or improperly reported groups is astronomical.

The event was one of the initial steps of the larger project, which aims to improve participation in and accuracy of the upcoming Census.

Promoting HIV Awareness among Adolescents in Pakistan

March

An overwhelming 120 adolescents participated in CWS-P/A's HIV awareness workshop in Hyderabad. Motivated by peer educators who had attended CWS-P/A's Youth Camps, the participants engaged in thought provoking discussions on topics including HIV transmission and prevention as well as gender dimensions of this issue.

Sixty-eight of the participants were females, a surprise considering the sensitivity of the topic.

Taking into consideration cultural sensitivity, CWS-P/A arranged segregated sessions on HIV for the boys and girls. However, the two groups joined each other for gender related sessions. The adolescents demonstrated their understanding of the topics through a poster contest.



For the first time, CWS-P/A invited two HIV positive guest speakers to one of its awareness sessions. Alert and showing keen interest, the participants listened to their stories and asked meaningful questions. Not knowing what to expect from the participants, the CWS-P/A team found this new addition to the agenda to have a significant impact on getting the message across to the adolescents.

Health Program for Afghan Refugees Handles more than Ten Thousand Patient Visits

January-April

CWS-P/A's Mansehra Health Program continued to provide both preventive and curative healthcare services to Afghan refugees living in Mansehra District through the network of three basic health units (BHUs) in Barari, Khaki, and Ichrian refugee camps. Major activities performed during the period included:

Patients visits	10,197
Antenatal Cases Registered	1,819
Postnatal Cases	677
Minor (Reproductive Health) RH Procedures	256
Laboratory Tests Performed	2,334 (587 test/month)

EPI Program and NIDs Campaigns:

In addition to the aforementioned activities, vaccination initiatives helped immunize hundreds of children. From January to April, 744 children were vaccinated for BCG, 567 for measles, and 541 were fully immunized. The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) remains an important part of health activities; in January and March, two rounds of polio vaccination campaigns (NIDs) allowed CWS-P/A to immunize 98% of the total target population. Additional efforts to vaccinate women of child bearing age for Tetanus Toxoid (TT) led to a total of 858 women receiving the vaccination.

By actively pursuing appropriate timing and delivery of vaccinations, CWS-P/A improves the chances to eliminate unnecessary illnesses among the population of Afghan refugee children. The high percentage of coverage rate occurs because of CWS-P/A's thirty year presence in the community and outreach and awareness raising initiatives.



Successful ISO Surveillance Visit

CWS-P/A first received ISO 9001:2000 Certification in June 2005, and a three-year renewal of certification was achieved in 2008.

On January 26, 2009, a successful ISO 9001:2000 surveillance visit was conducted by United Registrar of Systems (URS), an agency accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) for Quality, Environment & Information Security Systems Certification. This was achieved with the great efforts of all staff and the continuous support and commitment of senior management.

Quality and Accountability Department

Under CWS-P/A's Organizational Development, a new department, Quality and Accountability (Q&A), became functional in the beginning of 2009. For CWS-P/A, this is another step forward toward its commitment for quality and transparency of its functions. Q&A will include the internal audit function and the process for Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) certification among its various components.

Welcome

CWS-P/A welcomes the following staff who joined between January and April:

Capacity Building Program

Ashok Kumar Lilani

Amer Anwer

Abdul Waheed

Abdul Wadood Zhman

Operations

Kaveeta Harman

Project Officer

Intern

Intern

CBP/SDP Project Officer

Office Assistant

Partner's Profile



SUNGI Development Foundation emerged in 1989 as a non-profit and non-governmental (NGO) public interest organization to:

- Work for the rights of deprived and marginalized communities;
- Integrate them into mainstream development process;
- Actively advocate their livelihood and human rights;
- Bring about the much needed policy and institutional changes in the state structures.

Sungi has vast experience in providing humanitarian aid in response to flood and flash floods (1992) in Balakot, earthquake (2004), and heavy rain and snowfall (2005) in NWFP, to earthquake (2005) in D.I. Khan, NWFP, and AJK, and to earthquake (2008) in Balochistan.

A full member of Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP), Sungi proactively makes an effort to ensure accountability and transparency.

Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives in Afghanistan

■ *Written by: Saadia Haq*

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) concepts are considered in various sectors, including humanitarian relief, development aid, risk management, climate change, and emergency preparedness. It is used for prevention or minimizing the effects of hazards so that they don't become disasters.

CWS-P/A emphasizes the incorporation of DRR concepts for the post-war Afghan affected communities in Afghanistan. In fragile state, the resilience level is relatively lower (it takes them longer to recover), and thus, minimizing risk is the most efficient way of dealing with disaster management in such countries.

In 2007, CWS-P/A initiated its "Afghanistan Drought Assistance" project for assisting the community to re-build the water regulators, diversion dams, and erosion barriers to reduce the risk of floods and provide food security to the region. The project was implemented for one year in selected villages of four provinces that are prone to floods.

CWS-P/A was able to achieve its DRR targets by completing fifty-two smaller projects including the construction of karees, wells, streams and ponds, check dams, and water canals, allowing the beneficiaries to have access to water sources; decreasing their dependency to rain-fed agricultural practices. The beneficiaries reported that both livestock and affected communities have benefited; there is a decrease in the water shortage and unhygienic water, and also steps were made to reduce the region's food insecurity.

Another successful step for DRR in Afghanistan was the provision of "Preventive Health Care" to school-aged children, which particularly educated them about landmines. CWS-P/A focused on psychosocial rehabilitation, emergency preparedness, and awareness activities in Kabul and Bamyan with more than two thousand children.

In December 2008, CWS-P/A became the focal point organization for the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for Disaster Reduction in Afghanistan. As an outcome, in April 2009, the "Views from the Frontline" project was conducted at Kabul.

The two-day National Consultative Workshop on DRR research project called "Views from the Frontline" was conducted in Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) conference room on April 22 and 23.

A total of fifty participants including representatives from government, non-governmental organizations, and other UN agencies involved in the cluster coordination system

in Afghanistan attended the workshop.

"Views from the Frontline" is an action-oriented research which tries to measure the progress of implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) adopted in 2005. Afghanistan is one of 168 countries that are signatories. Afghanistan focuses on increasing resilience and minimizing the vulnerabilities for future disasters.

During the two-day workshop, the working groups brainstormed on the root causes of gaps in the implementation of HFA at the national level and also mapped out strategic recommendations.

The recommendations and results of the consultative workshop were included in the country report for Afghanistan and served as a guide for future initiatives and policies adopted for DRR by the Government of Afghanistan. Consequently, the results of "Views from the Frontline" project will be presented at the global panel as part of UN/ISADR's global assessment review of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Geneva, Switzerland in 2009.



Arising from the results of "Views from the Frontline," the DRR consortium is meeting periodically to consult Afghanistan's disaster management system and structure. The consortium was recommended to be the national platform for the country on disaster reduction. CWS-P/A continues to practice its commitment in the field of DRR with full involvement of relevant stakeholders in the sector.

CWS-P/A also works on DRR initiatives in Pakistan. In May 2009, a workshop on DRR is planned. The workshop, "Community Based Disaster Risk Management," is designed for our local partners working in Hyderabad with fisher folk communities.



CWS-P/A Reaches the

10th Anniversary of one of its Capacity Building Programs

■ *Written by: Kelli Siddiqui*

April 2009 signified the tenth anniversary of CWS-P/A's Capacity Building Program for People's Organizations (CBPPO). Over the past decade, CBPPO's aim remained relatively the same, to empower and strengthen people's organizations in the region to uplift marginalized sections of society so that they can be effective catalysts of change and progress. By training and supporting partner organizations, CBPPO benefits a significantly larger population than if it directly intervened with local communities.

A year ago, CWS-P/A initiated a review of the real impact its CBPPO activities had among partner organizations and indirectly upon the local communities. A realistic, critical analysis of the impact, including negative aspects, on partner organizations and identification of the extent to which organizations implement the tools and skills learned in training produced a comprehensive understanding of CBPPO's long-term and sustainable effects on individuals, organizations, and in the lives of the indirect beneficiaries, the local communities.

Through the impact study conducted by a CWS-P/A team and an external consultant, Uma Narayanan, significant insight into the effects of CBPPO's activities appeared through the use of the Most Significant Change technique. Undoubtedly, direct and indirect changes at the individual, organizational, and community levels occurred; the degree to which change occurred largely depended upon the extent of the relationship and the number of CBPPO's activities in which the organization participated.

Organizations who participated under the Long-Term Partnership Program (LTPP) showed immediate and highly visible changes. All Mothers Education Now (A.M.E.N.), a small organization that focuses upon literacy education for women, had recently joined LTPP at the time of the study. According to the most significant change account for A.M.E.N., the staff members benefited from numerous trainings while the organization benefited from increased confidence and partnership with CWS-P/A. Additionally, A.M.E.N. incorporated the human rights training received

from CWS-P/A into its education curriculum. At the community level, one of the students educated by A.M.E.N. on human rights and women rights issues used the knowledge to change the course of her life. Engaged to a man double her age, the student sought the support of her teacher and fellow students after her father did not listen to her claims that she had a right to live her life. Subsequently, her father was convinced and engaged his daughter to a man her age.

Another organization under LTPP experienced significant organizational changes. Society for Safe Environment and Welfare of Agrarians (SSEWA-Pak) was recommended for and received ISO certification; with systems, procedures, and department manuals in place, SSEWA-Pak paved the way for institutional memory and sustainability. A staff member attended the 2006 training, "Human Resource Development," which in turn led to the establishment of a human resource department. The organization reported increased ability to position staff in the right posts, thus, leading to better service to the community.

CBPPO's main activity is training. Through training, organizations receive knowledge that if applied appropriately and permanently within their organization will have a long-lasting effect on their work. Skills and issue-based training offered by CBPPO cover a wide array of topics. One organization shared the benefits its organization received from CBPPO's training. In 2001, a

chairman of a local NGO attended “Community Mobilization Training.” With the intention of selling crockery in Murree after the sessions to raise money for his organization, the participant claimed, “I instantly recognized the value of networking and engaging in discussions after the formal training sessions.” It was his first experience engaging



with other NGOs, particularly female representatives. After the training, his organization used the knowledge to develop techniques, tools, and approaches for working with the community. Subsequently, he shared that his organization received large funding for a water project within the community which decreased health problems in the targeted area. CBPPO also uses the training platform as a way to promote peace and harmony in the region by bringing participants from Pakistan and Afghanistan together. Over the years, participants’ misconceptions of one another faded as a result of interacting with each other during workshops.

CBPPO, however, has a vast approach that includes many milestones that took place over three phases of the program. LTTP emerged from the recognition that a more comprehensive and longer term approach is needed to strengthen organizations; therefore, it includes coaching and assisting organizations within their organizational setup to strengthen financial systems, strategic planning, office management, project management, issues dealing with gender, and human rights. CBPPO also introduced several techniques to the development sector in Pakistan including the use of interactive theater and short courses. Since introducing interactive theater in 1998-99, CBPPO has trained theater groups that use the technique to impart knowledge of various development and social issues. Short courses developed by CBPPO provide in-depth training on topics that can drastically improve an organization’s structure and development; “Human Resource Development,” “Organizational Development,” and “Development Approaches” are among the courses offered.

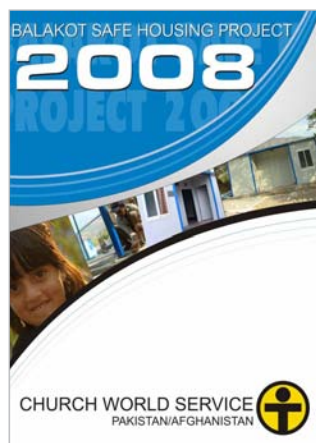
For the most part, the 2008 study showed that CBPPO enjoys a positive reputation among participating organizations and within the targeted, marginalized communities. Organizations generally contact CBPPO for partnership, often due to word of mouth among other organizations. Based upon positive, negative, and unexpected feedback, CBPPO analyzed its activities and outreach tools. Although limitations on resources and validating some organizations’ claims existed, overall the impact study provided a valuable, general assessment of the impact CBPPO has on its partners, over 350 in all, and on the communities.

In 2009, as it entered into a new three-year phase, CBPPO officially changed its name to Promoting Good Governance (PGG). Although regular activities such as training, support, and follow-up continue, a new emphasis is placed upon improving the governance structures and systems of partner organizations. As in the past, PGG’s activities often coincide with interventions and partnerships by other CWS-P/A programs. The ability for PGG to adapt to the needs of partner organizations strengthens the overall influence and change in the targeted communities.

Balakot Safe Housing Project — Video Documentary

Balakot Safe Housing Project, a video documentary, brings forward the lives of the 2005 South Asian earthquake survivors in Balakot. The documentary addresses mobilizing the local affected communities and the provision of safe shelter in Balakot City. It highlights both challenges faced by the affected community and the impact receiving the safe houses has on their lives.

This documentary was produced as part of CWS-P/A Balakot Housing Project and is available through CWS-P/A.



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 to achieve economic prosperity and improve human and social capital through participatory endeavor, which liberates people and enhances their capacities to take control of their lives.

HOT Topic

What is Gender Equality?

Gender equality is a term widely used, particularly by the humanitarian community. Often, specific issues related to inequality between males and females are targeted as potential areas to improve gender equality, an equal balance of access and opportunity for both males and females, such as in the sectors of education and workforce. In most developing countries, however, gender equality is

gender equality

not uniformly present. Whether out of poverty or cultural practice, women often have less access to education, income earning opportunities, and equal rights in the law.

The United Nations' Human Development Reports include a statistic, Gender-related Development Index (GDI), which measures a country's equality ratio in terms of life-expectancy, education, and estimated earned income of both males and females. In the latest report, figures for GDI were calculated with 2005 data. Afghanistan data is not available in the report, but Pakistan ranks 136 out of 177 countries. Gender inequality is extremely prevalent in both countries.

For this reason, CWS-P/A always considers gender issues and equality when implementing humanitarian and development work, therefore mainstreamed in all its interventions. By mobilizing communities, CWS-P/A is able to get support from the community and gain female participation in training, activities, and decision-making. By implementing interventions aimed at empowering women such as livelihood opportunities, CWS-P/A works for the sustainable attainment of gender equality in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Words of Wisdom

“You cannot hope to build a **better world** without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement and at the same time share a **general responsibility** for all humanity, our particular duty being to **aid** those to whom we think we can be most useful.”

Marie Curie (1867-1934)