

ACT Alliance Membership

We are excited to announce that our application to the ACT Alliance has been formally approved. Community World Service Asia is now a proud ACT member. ...

Continue reading at page 4

NEWSLETTER

January - June 2015

Volume 1, Issue 1

A girl at the Mother and Child Health Center in Thatta, Sindh
Photographed by Khalid Rasheed, February 2015



Newsletter January to June 2015

Disclaimer: In 2014, the final phase of the transition from Church World Service - Pakistan / Afghanistan to Community World Service Asia began. As of January 2015, all new publications are being published with the new name and logo including the Newsletter. The Newsletter includes all projects that were implemented by Church World Service - Pakistan / Afghanistan and Community World Service Asia during the year.

Contents

Mission Statement	03
Announcements	04
Suggested Reading	04
Celebrating New Beginning...	05
Communiqué	08
Q&A Regional	11
Road to Sendai	16
Trending	19
Trivia	22
Quote	23

Mission Statement

Community World Service Asia as an ecumenical regional non-governmental organization aims to address factors that set people apart by celebrating inclusiveness, shared values, diversity, and interdependence. Marginalized communities are assisted irrespective of race, faith, color, age, sex, economic status, or political opinion. Respecting the right to choose how to live, we work with marginalized communities in order for them to overcome inequality and lead dignified, peaceful, and resilient lives.

Dear Readers,

Greetings and a warm welcome to the very first issue of Community World Service Asia's Newsletter!

We are honored to introduce the first newsletter, the goal of which is to provide our partners with a concise yet comprehensive picture of all the news generated by our field staff, project staff and communicators region wide.

We couldn't be more excited to have made it to this point. Please take some time to get to know the layout of our newsletter. You will notice the four categories of content: Announcements, Features, Trending and Infotainment. Within each category, there are articles and information for you to enjoy.

In this issue we have included a sneak peek from our Independence event ceremony, a special message from the organization's Regional Representative, announcements on new memberships and news on upcoming trainings. Our feature stories focus on our regional presence in the field of DRR and Quality and Accountability. The trending section is all about the latest news and happenings from our

various thematic areas of work. Here you will hear from how we are supporting the IDPs in Kohat to our humanitarian initiatives in Afghanistan and Iran and on our development efforts in Pakistan. Starting fresh we have also now added a humanitarian themed quiz for our readers in an attempt to make the newsletter more interactive and informative.

Many of the stories in this issue take on one aspect or another of the role Community World Service Asia is playing in making the communities more resilient to humanitarian crisis and empowering them to achieve their fundamental rights.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the first edition of this newsletter. Please feel free to bring any comments, suggestions or new stories to our attention for future editions. We are honored to share the work of so many committed and thoughtful people. Please view the editorial team section below to see the wonderful team!

Have a great read!

Editorial Team



Shama Mall



Palwashay Arbab



Sahar Zafar



Alison Sneddon



Hasan Imtiaz



Zahra Jabeen



Khalid Rasheed

ACT Alliance Membership

We are excited to announce that our application to the [ACT Alliance](#) has been formally approved. Community World Service Asia is now a proud ACT member. After going through a comprehensive application process, the ACT Alliance Governing Board approved our membership application in their meeting this May.

Chairing the ACT Pakistan Forum

Community World Service Asia has become the first ever local and regional organization to be a member of the ACT Pakistan Forum. Currently chairing the Pakistan Forum, makes us the first ever local chair in the country.

Joining the START Network and partnering with MERS-SEEP

In May, Community World Service Asia acquired membership in the [START Network](#). The organization also became partners of The [SEEP Network](#) in working towards improving the impact of economic recovery programming by building consensus on good practices!

Projects Launched in 2015

1. Emergency Assistance to Conflict affected IDP Families in Kunduz Province, Afghanistan, in June.
2. Emergency Heatwave Response to affected communities in Sindh, Pakistan, in June
3. Political & Social Equality for Religious Minorities in Pakistan, in April.
4. Increasing financial resilience and economic empowerment of disadvantaged young women and promoting gender equity in marginalised communities of Umerkot, Pakistan, in April.
5. Economic Empowerment for a Disaster-Resilient Future: Sindh Province, Pakistan, in January.
6. Increasing Local Capacity for Peace- Youth Action for Peace Project in Pakistan, in January.

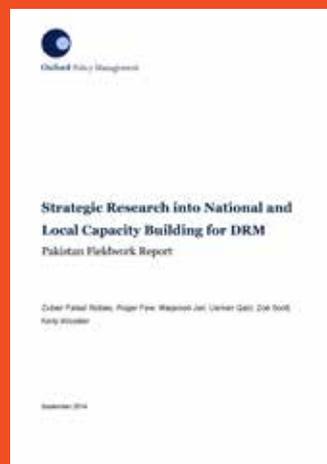
Announcements



Upcoming Trainings

Event	Dates	Location
Networking Event	July 14, 2015	Faisalabad
Financial Management (Advanced)	Aug 25 -27, 2015	Islamabad
Theatre for Development	Aug 17 - 23, 2015	Hyderabad
In-House CHS Write-Shop	July 31 - Aug 01, 2015	
Training on Sphere Minimum Standard with focus on Health Action and Person with Disability (CHEF Staff)	Aug 05 - 06, 2015	
Training on Sphere Minimum Standard with focus on Health Action and Person with Disability (CHEF Partners)	Aug 11 - 12, 2015	
Q & A Support	Aug 17 - Sep 04, 2015	Nepal
Applying Core Humanitarian Standard in PCM	Aug 23 - 25, 2015	Kabul

Suggested Reading



Download: www.communityworldservice.asia/publications



Our Regional Representative in conversation with Parliamentarians that are actively supporting us in one of our development projects.



Introduction to Community World Service Asia - our new identity



Members of the diplomatic community and Community World Service staff enjoying a moment at the event



Community World Service Asia staff and partner agencies representatives watching a short video on our history in the region

Celebrating a New Beginning....

On December 3rd, 2014, Community World Service Asia marked its official birth as partners, friends and staff all came together at the launch ceremony in Islamabad. The cold winter evening was filled with warmth and elation as celebrations of our new identity continued through the night.

Friends from the diplomatic community, the government, and the humanitarian and development sector joined the Community World Service Asia team with the same zest and zeal as the hosts. The new logo was

unveiled and an introductory video was screened in the backdrop of stories of the journey being shared. The history of the organization’s presence in the region was shared with guests as memorable speeches were made by our distinguished team leaders. Networking and relationship building with new and old partners continued over dinner. Promises of continuing our remarkable work in the region under the new identity were made by staff and partners alike. And we stand by them through our unceasing work with communities all across the region.

community
WORLD'S BEST SERVICE
A new beginning...

Marvin Parvez giving opening remarks at the event



Community World Service Staff. From Left to Right- Allan Calma, Palwashay Arbab, Ambreen Niazi, Rabia Wasid and Marvin Parvez



Community World Service Staff and guests at the Independence celebration

Communiqué



June, 2015

Dear Friends and Partners,

Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan is proud to announce that it is becoming an independent regional organization.

Our separation from Church World Service Global has been a gradual process spanning two decades. Over the years, the changing context in the region, an increase in disasters, and a preference for working through organizations with strong local and international connections played a role in the process. During the mid-2000s, our role expanded beyond Pakistan and Afghanistan when we supported disaster response elsewhere in Asia and became a promoter of quality and accountability standards. Our independence therefore reflects our achievements in terms of capacity, experience, growth, and credibility.

Here at Community World Service Asia we have a clear goal and vision for the future. While we will have a new identity, our supporters, partners and communities will find that our capacity, values, structure, programs, commitments, policies, and practices – the foundation that makes us strong – will essentially remain intact. However, as a regional organization, we will expand our programs and partnerships in Asia, assisting marginalized communities in overcoming inequality to lead dignified, peaceful, and resilient lives.

We developed strong links in Asia, particularly in Pakistan and Afghanistan where the majority of our programs are implemented over the past 64 years. From working in the early years with refugees in Pakistan, to responding to some of the largest disasters in history in Asia, integrating development initiatives and providing capacity building at the regional level, our journey comprises many important milestones and proud moments of making a difference in the lives of people affected by disaster or other development challenges.

We deeply appreciate the communities, partners, Government, board, team and other stakeholders who have all played an essential role in our success and continued presence in the region. Over the coming months, we will communicate further information and updates. We thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Marvin Parvez,
Regional Representative,
Community World Service Asia



A boy smiling at the camera at the Afghan refugee camp in Mansehra



Handicrafts made by women from the communities we work with in Tappi village, Kohat





Community World Service Asia (formerly CWS-P/A) stall at the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum Expo in Islamabad



VO members share the materials which help them prepare for disasters



Exhibition of handmade products by Afghan refugee and host community women. These women are supported by Community World Service Asia's Vocational Training project in Mansehra and Haripur



Sardar Kalyan Singh addressing the 2nd National Caucus Conference in Islamabad



Regional quality and accountability deployment: The Philippines experience

As the Sphere Regional Partner in Asia, Community World Service Asia supports Sphere country focal points in the region through training, technical support, and other activities that promote and build capacity on Sphere, its companion standards, and other Q&A initiatives. To support quality and accountability (Q&A) during the emergency response to Typhoon Haiyan, Community World Service Asia deployed a Q&A team to the Philippines from November 2013 to May 2014. Recognizing the limited time window for impacting the emergency response, Community World Service Asia worked with Lutheran World Relief (LWR), the host agency and Sphere Country Focal Point, to not only identify but also prioritize the needs. The goal for the deployment was to support the short-term Q&A needs while setting up a basis to address the longer-term requirements. The desired outcome was achieved with the support of a pre-existing strong partnership with the host agency and several defining characteristics of the deployment: a structured and participatory approach, the timely deployment and expertise of core team members and resource persons, and the customized capacity building activities and tools designed to support Q&A in action.

Community World Service Asia and Lutheran World Relief have partnered on quality and accountability for years, with the first deployment to Sri Lanka in 2009. The close partnership has enabled Community World Service Asia to support LWR and its implementing part-

ners to improve the capacity of aid workers at in-country and regional levels. Securing the required resources—people, financial, material—for the Q&A deployment to the Philippines required close cooperation between both agencies. During the Philippines experience, support from the senior management of both agencies was crucial, while supporting roles such as communication with stakeholders were also shared by the two organizations.

A structured approach to Q&A is essential, which was also a core component of how Community World Service Asia approached the Philippines experience. An effective structure and close coordination with stakeholders were essential for planning the capacity building activities and tools used during the deployment. A significant part of the coordination included twenty-one partner consultations to determine the right level and types of support to be planned. Effective communication and engagement were paramount in analyzing the varying levels of knowledge and application of Q&A among participating organizations. These interactions early on helped to communicate the purpose of the deployment, identify gaps, and explain how Q&A can positively impact the effectiveness of the emergency response. Describing the experience for the Philippines, Uma Narayanan, Team Leader for the Q&A deployment, shares, “The components of a successful deployment are a clear terms of reference (ToR), having a focal point in the country/host agency, a clear plan with indicators



several years. When I was contacted by Community World Service Asia for this opportunity, I thought it would be a great opportunity to see how Q&A is interpreted in the project cycle after a disaster.” She continues, “Q&A isn’t just an added burden but important for helping disaster-affected people.”

During the six-month deployment, various capacity development opportunities were provided including 27 trainings in which 452 aid workers from 159 organizations participated. Other activities included a lessons learned event and a joint mini audit. A tool was developed for the latter and was used to audit three organizations. Sharing an example of a focus group discussion during the joint mini audit, Faye recalls:

“During an FGD [focal group discussion] with a group of people who received in-kind donations from the U.S., a man said that one should ask first before deciding what to give. The received items were not meeting their prioritized needs. The assessment and planning phase are very important when we talk about Q&A. They received a mix of hygiene kits and baby care kits. Some people received for girls, but there were no girls within the household. Some people received kits which didn’t meet any of their household needs. He was so thankful but explained the items were not needed. They do not even give the items to other people because they received them as a gift. In many cases, in-kind gifts are very useful, but it’s important to be careful to identify the needs.”

The joint mini audit provided the participating organizations an understanding of the ways their programs and implementation process were impacting the project participants. This feedback was essential to gauge the relevance and effectiveness of their response, and it was done in real-time so action could be taken by the participating organizations to further improve their response



or expected outputs, and ensuring all relevant stakeholders are aware of what is going on.”

To effectively support the emergency response, a qualified team was deployed within two weeks of the disaster. This time period helped in understanding the emerging needs while not compromising on engaging organizations in Q&A from the start of their response activities. The people involved in the Q&A team had important roles to play, which included the ability to identify, adapt, and integrate the right levels of support where it was needed most. Originally planned for three months, the Q&A deployment was lengthened to six months based on assessments made during the first few weeks.

The core team, which included Narayanan and Rizwan Iqbal, Program Coordinator at Community World Service Asia, possessed expertise and profiles which complemented each other. Additional resource persons were invited to join the team for support during joint mini audits. By engaging Sphere country focal points from other countries, Community World Service Asia aimed to ensure a diverse range of expertise during the deployment besides providing an opportunity for Sphere country focal points to engage and support each other in a different context. The composition of the team depended on the individuals’ availability and their experience in Q&A, where proximity to the affected country mattered. For the Philippines, all core team and additional resource persons came from Asian countries. Bringing resource persons from outside the host country resulted in diverse and objective perspectives. Simultaneously, the ability to relate to the regional issues and context helped the resource persons to adapt quickly to the situation, which was vital for impacting the emergency response.

Faye Lee, a resource person from South Korea, describes her role, “I have been working on Sphere for

program. As a first-time initiative, the joint mini audits proved to be an effective method for integrating knowledge, application, and compliance on Q&A in an emergency context.

Reflecting upon the outcomes of the deployment, Narayanan emphasizes, “The Q&A deployment generated greater interest and commitment from numerous agencies, mostly NGOs. Quite a number of NGOs demonstrated commitment which translated into action.” An example was the implementation of a complaints response mechanism (CRM) through which the quality of projects improved. Narayanan also highlights, “The awareness level of training participants has increased.” She recalls a particularly personal reflection of a training of trainers (ToT) participant:

“My grandmother was receiving so many sanitary pads. She doesn’t even use them. It was appreciated that the hygiene kit was distributed, but it was not helpful for her. Now, I realize it was not a targeted distribution. We were not aware of our rights. We could have raised a complaint.”

Following the Q&A deployment, the impact continued to resonate. Subhashis Roy, a resource person during the deployment and LWR staff member in India, explains, “Two months after the deployment, I went for a different M&E [monitoring and evaluation] event. I saw LWR staff at the community level. The implementation and knowledge base of Q&A had increased significantly at the staff level.” All materials or resources, which were tailor-made for the Philippines deployment, were shared with LWR and its partners, from brochures to lesson plans. This way, the materials could be translated and used to further develop in-country trainers’ capacities.

The resource persons engaged in the deployment also took away new knowledge and skills. Roy describes, “I can use this practical experience in my training program in other countries.” Faye shares, “The audit tool we developed together was really useful. It can be applied to different types of projects or adapted for other things like DRR [disaster risk reduction], education, etc. I used it in part during my work back home. There hasn’t been an opportunity to use it as an audit tool, but I referenced it during monitoring visits to project sites.”

Discussing future disasters, Faye explains, “I think it is a brilliant idea to have a deployment for a Sphere audit. Local partners are also involved so it is a peer audit process, but it will be nice to call it a review and learning exercise. These should be continued. Each partner needs some monetary commitment, time, and human resource.” In addition to Faye’s description of the Q&A audit process and how it can help in future disasters, the Philippines experience helped define the essential elements for a successful Q&A deployment. These include strong collaboration, a clear structure, an experienced team, quick deployment, and customized resources, tools, and activities.



Learning from the Accountability and Learning Working Group (ALWG)



The Accountability Learning and Working Group (ALWG) was established by Community World Service Asia in 2011 in order to enable humanitarian and development actors in Pakistan to support and learn from each other regarding quality and accountability, and ultimately serve their communities better. The ALWG currently has over twenty members who are actively working to mainstream and strengthen quality and accountability. In order to promote awareness of the group, in Pakistan and throughout the region, Community World Service Asia conducted an interview with Shahzad Ajmal Paracha, Program Quality and Accountability Coordinator for ACF International (Pakistan), which joined the ALWG in 2012, to gain his perspective on the importance and role of the group in humanitarian and development work.

How did ACF International come to be involved in quality and accountability and the ALWG?

In 2012, we were designing our accountability mechanism and we

wanted to learn from the experiences of organizations. We found Community World Service Asia, and other INGOs who had their own accountability mechanism, and got support in establishing our Feedback and Complaint Mechanism (FCM). It was as a result of our consultation with Community World Service Asia that we became aware of the ALWG, and later became engaged with this group.

We then provided training to Program Quality and Accountability (PQA) staff members on Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) and FCM and later replicated the same training for all staff members in our field offices all around the country. We started with sensitizing staff on the idea of what HAP stands for, what it means and how it is related to the FCM. We conducted FCM orientation sessions with communities, we delivered IEC material and procured & installed complaints boxes, we developed formats and databases to process and manage complaints records. That's how we initiated this process, and it is ongoing.

How has the organization changed as a result of this involvement?

ACF is committed to quality and accountability, free and direct access for victims and transparency. These are all key points on our charter. Our involvement with the ALWG has brought several changes which have supported us as we fulfill these commitments. Initially we did not have any budget for Q&A procedures, now we have a budget in every project for Q&A. We had very limited centralized staff, now we have the PQA unit and staff in all bases. We have realized its importance, as in a few different projects we did receive several complaints and were able to take timely corrective measures for improving our program quality. Before the introduction of the FCM, communities had no direct access to us, but now they do. In one of our projects, we received 187 complaints which we upheld. It's a big number, so it means it is working.

What do you think have been the most important things you have learned from other ALWG members?

There are a lot of things. There was a good presentation from the INGO on the analysis of FCM. We are maintaining FCM records in an excel sheet, tracking it from lodging to response, but there was no analysis before, for example, gender-wise, sector wise, now we do and share monthly FCM analysis. The ACAPS presentation by Community World Service Asia helped us to know how different standard assessment tools exist in the sector. It helps to see how to assess and analyze information and write reports. Resources, such as the HAP videos, are also very useful. I have used them to train my colleagues; I think the videos are a very good way to explain the six benchmarks and why they are important. There was also a great learning from the presentation by Community World Service Asia on Q&A audit and its methodology. We are





interested in replicating this in the future.

What do you think ACF International has been able to contribute to the ALWG?

We were able to share a presentation on FCM. There was also a discussion on how we share the learning's, so we shared our "Annual Learning Review Document" as an example of a tool to share learning's widely. We also shared our own initiative of using the Open Data Kit (ODK) application, which relates to paperless surveys.

What recommendations do you have for the ALWG to be as effective as possible?

I think the most important thing is consistency in participation from all organizational representatives when it comes to attendance. When there is any decision-making or revisions being discussed, on ALWG TORs, or anything, there should be the same members attending for consultative decision-making. Collectively we can improve things, as it's not a one-man show.

In the last meeting, there was a very fruitful discussion about including advocacy of ALWG at different forums like the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum, Gender Task Force (GTF) etc. Last month, there was a GTF meeting, which included discussion regarding revision of the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) guidelines. In ERF, they included M&E as a component, but not accountability. So, I advocated for accountability to affected people to be included in the new guidelines. Being ALWG members, we should be on same page, as most of the members are participating and active in different working groups and forums, like gender task forces, assessment groups, humanitarian networks, so each member can voice the same thing to bring positive change.

Why do you think that Q&A is so important in the context of Pakistan?

After 2005, the scenario in Pakistan has been totally changed. A lot of foreign funding came in, and we had very little experience in disaster management at that time, we didn't have such capable staff, because we hadn't faced that kind of emergency before. Due to this lack of experience, loose controlling mechanisms and lack of

accountability standards during disaster response, fraud, corruption, misuse of power and compliance with rules became an issue. International Q&A standards were not integrated well at that time, the need for an accountability system became more clear. So, over the last ten to twelve years, it has improved and changed a lot.

You recently became involved in developing Q&A for colleagues in Nigeria. How does that compare to your experience in Pakistan?

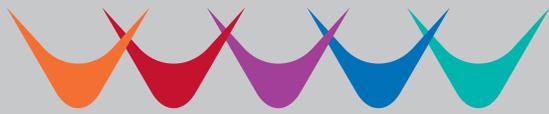
I have presented the development of our POA unit to the ACF Nigeria mission leadership. The main focus was how the unit has been developed within the ACF Pakistan mission, what are we doing in POA, what approach we adopted in establishing and strengthening the unit, and key factors of success.

In this short visit, my opinion and experience of Nigeria is that it's a very different country from Pakistan. The approach of working is very different, so we have to adapt systems to the different contexts. I observed that the staff are very committed, but have limited understanding about the role of Q&A in humanitarian work. However, there are organizations in Nigeria which have strong internal Q&A mechanisms, so these organizations can set a precedent for Q&A in Nigeria. ACF is replicating the PQ&A Pakistan learning into other missions. The ACF Nigerian mission has recently announced a PQ&A position to establish a unit, they requested us to share and develop PQ&A systems and procedures, so this is a positive step.

Why do you think initiatives like the ALWG are necessary?

Initiatives like the ALWG are good for people who are interested in learning, as I was interested to learn about establishing complaints mechanisms, as an example. So for those people, it's beneficial, and also for their organizations, otherwise, no. Just attending meetings is waste of your time as well as the time of others, when everyone is voluntarily contributing their time and efforts. It will be productive if it's utilized, otherwise, it's only discussions. The purpose and objectives of meetings should be very clear to participants, that's how we can get benefits and incorporate initiatives into organizations. Ultimately, that will benefit individuals, organizations and communities.

#Road2Sendai



UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan

In the buildup to the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan in March 2015, a campaign titled 'Road to Sendai' was launched to bridge the gap between civil society and world leaders. It was a 'global citizen-connect campaign' that took community voices to world leaders. The campaign attempted to reinforce the local successes and critical needs of people on disaster risk reduction.

Road2Sendai comprised of three main components. It looked at the success stories of the implementation of

the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA 1) with messages of what worked best in preventing, reducing and bouncing back stronger from disasters. It also attempted to improve the understanding of HFA 2 primarily among the humanitarian and development sector, as well as the broader public. Lastly, the campaign provided local communities a platform to share their opinions on, and contribute to the new framework.

Community World Service Asia participated in this global campaign along with other international and regional humanitarian organizations and actively played its role in collecting voices and DRR success stories from the communities it works with in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Success stories and messages from the local community were collected from Nangarhar in Afghanistan, Kohat and Thatta in Pakistan. Campaign flyers and standees were developed in Dari and Urdu language for the campaign's promotion and understanding at local levels. Road2Sendai was featured on the main WCDRR website and the material generated through the campaign was showcased at the conference and its side events in Sendai.

Over seven million people in 55 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America and the Pacific were reached through this campaign.

The following success story on HFA1 from one of our projects in Thatta was selected as part of the Road2Sendai campaign material.

Building Resilience and capacities of Flood Impacted Communities through DRR Training using Mobile Knowledge Resource Center (MKRC) in Sindh, Pakistan.

The Problem

The focus village for this project, Moor Jat, is situated in the Sujawal district in the Sindh province (Sujawal district was formerly a part of Thatta district, but was separated in 2013 to improve local administration). This area has been identified as a multi-hazard prone village due to its close proximity to the Indus river, as well as to the coast of the Arabian Sea. Poor socio-economic conditions, and the community's lack of knowledge on disaster risk reduction (DRR) techniques, add to the area's vulnerability. The village lies in a remote area which is deprived of basic education, health, electricity, and clean drinking water facilities. Since agricultural land in the village is mostly saline, all related activities have also been reduced as the land is not productive. Most of the community's livelihood is therefore earned through fishing and day-to-day labour.

Moor Jat was gravely affected by a cyclone in 1999, in which many lives were lost. Villagers were out at sea, and there was no early warning system in place. The village was also affected by heavy

rains during 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Community World Service Asia's Mobile Knowledge Resource Center (MKRC) aims to bring about improved DRR and climate change resilience for communities in the high-risk areas of the Sindh province. A thorough needs assessment found that communities were ill prepared to deal with hazards and disasters to which their environment is highly susceptible. The community also showed limited understanding on the causes of disasters and the wider climatic context. To address this gap, Community World Service Asia has been conducting various trainings on DRR for communities and schools, as well as disaster risk management assessment and planning.

After attending DRR training, I have realized the importance of early warnings and its need for disaster preparedness. This helped me in contributing towards minimizing risks in future

disasters. I can proudly say that I am no longer worried about my disability.

Vero, information secretary of DMC Moor Jat, Sindh,

The Activities

Two-day trainings on Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) were held, which oriented community members on the following topics:

- Introduction to basic terminologies (risk, hazard, disaster, vulnerability, capacity);
- Awareness raising sessions on the causes, impacts and precautionary measures of natural disasters;
- Introduction to risk assessment and DRM planning through participatory approaches;
- Practical workshops on different rescue tools;
- Definition of ToRs for the establishment of disaster management committees (DMCs);
- Formation of DMCs and facilitation of a village DRR plan;
- Establishment of information and communication networks with local authorities and DDMA.

The Outcomes

The DRR trainings resulted in a more resilient community that is now able to identify the factors contributing to disasters in the area, and respond appropriately and effectively.

- The community's knowledge and skills on overcoming the impacts of disaster in daily life have been enhanced;
- The coping methods taught to the community have helped them to protect themselves from impacts of disasters;

- The community is now aware of the early warning system (EWS) and its role in reducing the impacts of disasters;
- Risk Assessment tools were identified and implemented by the community;
- A village DMC is now established and its role and responsibility during pre, during and post disaster stages have been explained to the community;
- The community is supported with the establishment of a micro-level village risk management plan.

Way Forward

As well as the capacity building provided by the MKRC, there is a need for some structural schemes to be incorporated in DRR projects to ensure that the needs of communities are being met. The following key lessons learned have been highlighted for future initiatives and interventions:

1. A stockpile of emergency equipment needs to be budgeted for each DMC, or must be provided at cluster levels;
2. DMCs need to be linked with the meteorological department and disaster agencies for better preparedness.
3. Follow up and refresher courses need to be added as a regular support to DMCs to help them in implementing village risk management plans;
4. Mock drills need to be monitored by project staff, and observers from schools, NGOs, DDMA and other local authorities should be invited to observe and review the drills;
5. Community consultations need to be arranged with DDMA and local authorities on the integration of community plans in the district Contingency Plan and Annual Plan.



on the ROAD TO SENDAI



UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan

Visions and voices for a new global disaster framework

Community Voice from Kohat, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, Thatta, Sindh - Pakistan and Afghanistan



Taj Mohammad
"There is need to strengthen village based DRR committees and provision of trainings and resources so as to respond to any disaster"



Gul Zameer
"State and non-state actors like NGOs, CSOs should not ignore DRR, because now this is need of current time"



Yasmeen
"Basic information, knowledge and learning about disasters should be the part of the education curriculum in Schools"



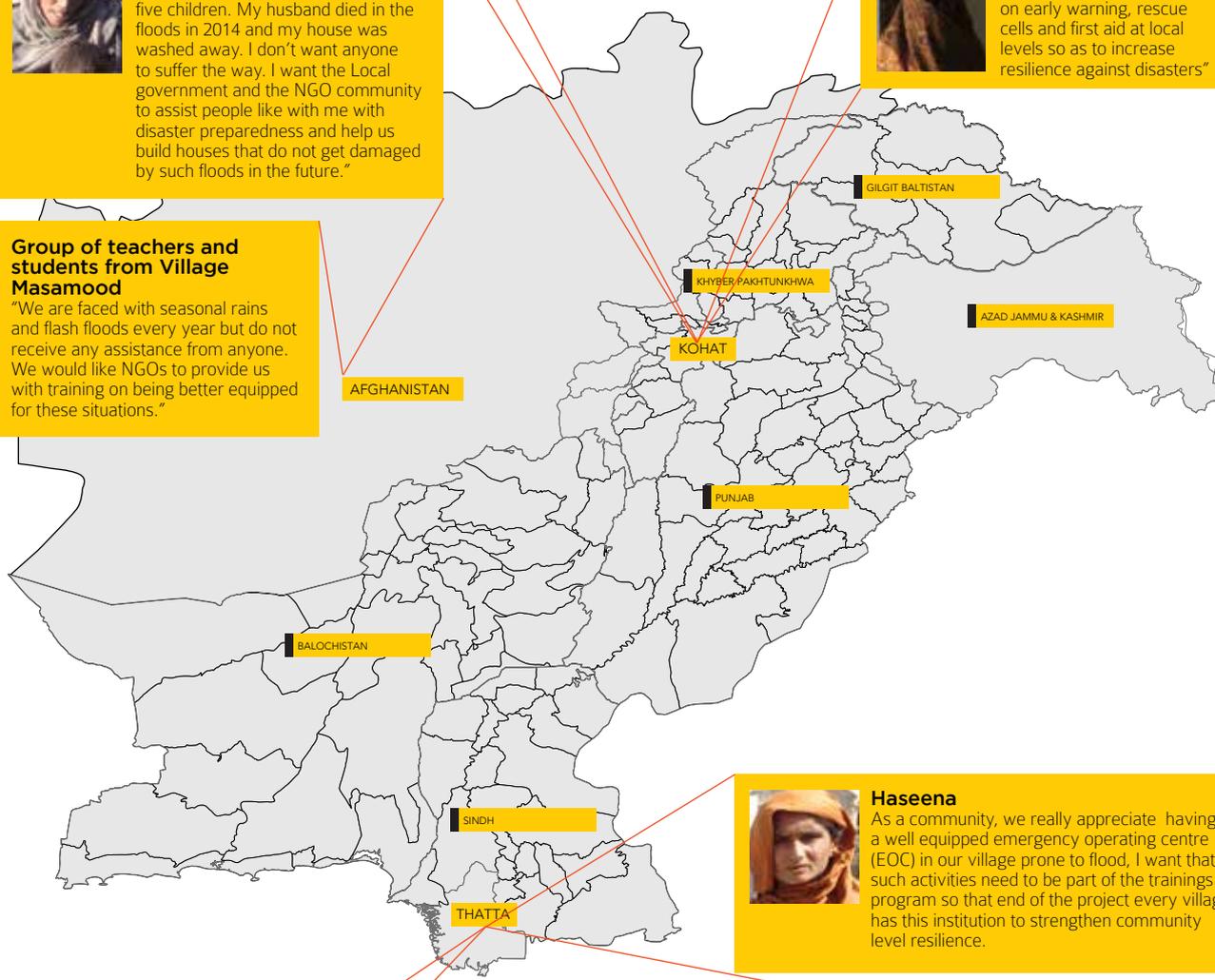
Bibi Noor
"I am Bibi Noor, single mother of five children. My husband died in the floods in 2014 and my house was washed away. I don't want anyone to suffer the way. I want the Local government and the NGO community to assist people like with me with disaster preparedness and help us build houses that do not get damaged by such floods in the future."



Zareena
"Governments should focus on early warning, rescue cells and first aid at local levels so as to increase resilience against disasters"

Group of teachers and students from Village Masamood

"We are faced with seasonal rains and flash floods every year but do not receive any assistance from anyone. We would like NGOs to provide us with training on being better equipped for these situations."



Haseena
As a community, we really appreciate having a well equipped emergency operating centre (EOC) in our village prone to flood, I want that such activities need to be part of the trainings program so that end of the project every village has this institution to strengthen community level resilience.



Saima
My message is that marginalized women are more vulnerable to disaster therefore it shall be appreciated if they are empowered through some trainings as well as livelihood schemes so that they can support to their family and reduce dependency on other.



Head Master
Our students and community became benefited from MKRC DRR program but I want that it need to be institutionalized further at community and schools both level so that the resilience culture can be promoted.



Shahnawaz
I feel that DRR is still lacking in development initiatives particularly in Sindh therefore I would ask to the forum to please make sure that development schemes implemented by the government cover DRR.



PARTNERS



Trending



World Service Asia's team decided to try to solve the situation by initiating meetings with the community elders of both sides to discuss possible solutions. With help from community mobilizers and the village committee set up for the project, the two parties finally agreed on allowing the construction of the drain.

The village committee President, Mehraban Khan, gathered some of the religious elders from the two parties to form a tribal council, or a Jirga, as known locally. The Jirga came to the agreement that the two parties will end their fight over the ownership of this drain and will allow all households to use it. A written agreement (MOU) was also signed by both groups stating that if either party breaks the agreed upon rules they will be fined for Rs. 200,000 by the Jirga.

Since the mutual consensus was reached and the longstanding conflict was resolved, the physical work on the drain has now started. Due to strong community mobilization and continual community consultation this outstanding issue was resolved and hundreds of families will continue to benefit from the drain reconstruction.



Conflict Resolution through Community Consultations

May 2015, by Marie Carlsson

The small village of Zara Mela is located in the union council Jarma in Kohat district, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KPK). Due to the ongoing conflict in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), a significant number of resident families have migrated to settle in the Zara Mela village due to its proximity to the main highway and its low house rents.

Community World Service Asia is restoring two irrigation channels servicing 48 acres of land in Jarma as a component of the IDP response project in Kohat. These canals are benefiting a total number of ninety-one families both directly and indirectly. Another twenty-three conflict affected families are directly facilitated under this project through provision of cash for work for the reconstruction of a drain. This is a twenty-seven days activity that will benefit 185 families.

During the social feasibility survey conducted by the village committee formed by Community World Service Asia, it was identified that a main drain in the village was in an acute need of rehabilitation. Its dirty and muddy water served as a breeding ground for mosquitos, and children playing in the contaminated standing water ran a great risk of attracting diseases.

However, before the work on the drain construction had even started it came to the project teams' attention that there was a two years long dispute regarding the ownership of the said drain. Previously two organizations had attempted to mediate between the two parties in order to solve the issue but without success. Community

Life in the rubble: Permina's story

June 2015, By Marie Carlsson

It has been ten years since Permina's husband Abdul Ghani left Afghanistan for Iran to work. She and their six children have not heard a single word from him since and have no information about whether he is alive or dead. "It is difficult to live without the head of the family", says Permina. "We spend all our waken hours waiting for him to return and hoping he would send some money back home, but so far, nothing has come our way." Permina continues, "I am solely carrying the responsibility for my children. Abdul Sammad, our eldest son, is working as a car mechanic earning PKR 50 per day but that is not sufficient to run the house." Permina has very less to survive on and is going through a very difficult time. Presently, she is fully dependent on the charity of relatives and friends.

The heavy rains that hit Permina's small village in Nangarhar province in Afghanistan three months ago ruined the family's only property; their two bedroom, mud brick house. "Not only was my house gone but all my assets were destroyed", Permina explains. "Furniture, clothes, mattresses, agricultural vegetable seeds and farming tools. All was buried under the collapsed walls."

Reflecting on the community's current situation, she says, "some NGOs have come here, but up until now no one has helped us", she continues, "however, we are so grateful for the food we got from Community World Service Asia as that is the only help we have received so far". The food package distributed by Community World Service Asia to the affected people in this area consisted of wheat flour, cooking oil, rice, red beans, and iodized salt.



The forgotten Refugees of Iraq

May 2015, by Palwashay Arbab

Mona, 50 years old, and her sister, 45 years, fled Iraq shortly after the war began. They were the only surviving members of the family, while the rest were lost in the perils of war. With no one to go to, both the sisters crossed the border to Iran seeking refuge among thousands of other Iraqi families.

As of January 2015, the UNHCR estimates there are approximately 32,000 Iraqi refugees living in Iran. The regions in Iran where the majority of refugees settle are the western parts of the country, and the religious cities of Mashhad and Qom.

Since their arrival in Qom, Mona's sister has been suffering from poor health conditions and is admitted in the local hospital for treatment. Being her only support, Mona pays for all her medical bills while barely making ends meet for her own survival. Like all the other female headed refugee households in Iran, the sisters' livelihood is entirely dependent on the varying charitable contributions of the wealthier families of Qom. This contribution, although given in the best of faith, is inconsistent and insufficient for any individual's survival needs, let alone that of an uprooted person's.

Mona cannot recall when she last had a nutritious meal, including meat specifically. She wanted to let the world know her situation and that of thousands more living in similar conditions. Support for basic subsistence of the Iraqi refugees in Iran has been called for. Mona urges the global community to aid in achieving peace in Iraq so that people like her can return to their motherland.

Community World Service Asia has heard Mona's voice among many other Iraqi refugees and have initiated a three month cash assistance response supporting a hundred Iraqi refugee families in Qom, Iran. This will be a one-time grant of USD 200 that will provide the war survivors a start-off cash with which they may purchase whatever items they require most- food, clothing, medicines



or more. Special consideration will be given to ensure that the most vulnerable groups such as women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities are benefited from the effort.

We are grateful to HAMI, our local partners in Iran, the communities we assist and other partners involved for their support and facilitation of our program in Iran.



Four Day Workshop on Social Mobilization

May 2015, by Hassan Imtiaz

Understanding the concept and significance of social mobilization is a vital part of the development sector at present times. Without the motivation and involvement of the communities, nothing can truly be improved in a society. To ensure this, NGOs carry out extensive social mobilization activities to raise awareness and create demand among the local people for specific issues prevailing within the community. This is a cornerstone of participatory approaches in rural development and poverty alleviation programs and aims to create a sense of ownership among the people by involving them in the decision-making process.

The workshop which was held from the 25th till the 28th of May in Hyderabad offered detailed knowledge on community mobilization methods, participatory development and its basics. The participants of the training included local community mobilizers, social organizers and staff members of local NGOs. The training was primarily targeted at small and medium scale organizations working under the banner of NGOs or CSOs, who actively use social mobilization as a tool for successfully implementing their projects.

A total of twenty-one participants, 42 % of which were women, were engaged in this training. The training also focused on identifying ways of developing linkages of local community with government agencies, INGOs/NGOs and CBOs for community development. Various interactive tools such as individual exercises, lectures, role plays, group work, discussions and energizers, in combination with audio and visual aids were used to effectively achieve the training's objectives.

"Not only was the workshop relevant to our job and gave us the necessary skills but I would also want to acknowledge the hard work of management who remained in contact with us throughout the training to cater to our requirements", expressed, Ms. Khalida from Saath Development Society as the sessions ended.

Muhammad Hassan from Villagers Development Organization also shared, "Since I am working on a micro finance project, I find it very difficult to satisfy communities regarding their queries and ensuring commitments as per the terms and conditions of our loan schemes. I really appreciated the way the workshop contents were tailored for us. With these skills I can now motivate communities and can carry out my mobilization work much easily".



Community Initiatives for Health

April 2015, by Alison Sneddon

Community World Service Asia is working to improve maternal, neonatal and child health care among the remote and underserved communities of Thatta, Sindh. Our health center provides a variety of preventive and curative services, and plays a vital role in enabling community members to access health services locally, alleviating the financial burden and difficulties of travelling to the nearest hospital.

As well as consultations and treatment, we have trained local health workers to conduct awareness-raising sessions on key health issues relating to maternal, neonatal and child health, including basic hygiene practices, common illnesses such as diarrhea, malaria and scabies, HIV and AIDS, breastfeeding and family planning. The sessions have contributed toward increases in vaccinations of mothers and children, prenatal check-ups, and knowledge and practice of family planning methods. Before we initiated this project, only a quarter of pregnant women sought medical consultation; that number is now almost 90 percent. Women are also moving away from traditional birth attendants towards qualified lady doctors, enhancing their safety and the safety of their babies when giving birth.

Pictured is a recent session conducted for women in Jaffar Mallah, a village in Thatta, raising awareness of antenatal care and family planning. Our trained health worker explained the importance of child spacing, as recommended by the World Health Organization, both in terms of the mothers' wellbeing and the benefits to households of fewer children. Smaller families mean that parents will be more able to provide proper nutrition and education for their children, and reduces health risks posed to mothers and babies born after closely spaced pregnancies.

Over the last three months, a total of thirteen sessions have been held by Community World Service Aisa, in which 75 women, 72 men and nine children have participated.



Enhancing the safety of vulnerable schools

May 2015, by Alison Sneddon

Community World Service Asia believes that protecting school children from disasters is of paramount importance. Children are not only especially vulnerable to disasters, but are also effective communicators on the risks of disasters and strategies to mitigate them. Children have been shown to share their learning with their parents, who in turn can make preparations to enhance the safety of the household.

Equipping school staff to prepare for disasters through hazard mapping, evacuation drills and the development and maintenance of contacts with key local authorities are vital in minimizing the risk posed to students and teachers alike in the event of a disaster occurring during the school day. Using our innovative Mobile Knowledge Resource Center (MKRC), we conducted safety trainings in communities and schools in Thatta, an extremely flood-prone district of Sindh. This was also one of the worst-affected areas by the record-breaking floods in 2010.

Our work in Thatta is empowering communities to take practical action to protect themselves from natural disasters. In two recent training sessions, a total of 95 school students and five teachers visited the MKRC and learned about safety during natural disasters, by engaging interactive and participatory techniques. We provided every student with an emergency bag containing a radio, a torch and a document box (to store and protect important documents from loss or damage in an emergency).

"I didn't know what to do if a flood comes or an earthquake occurs, however I now feel lucky to be part of MKRC training and learn about safety measures. I liked mock drills and simulation models used during training," shared a fourth grade student who participated at the workshop.



Trivia



1. According to Barack Obama during his speech on Poverty Summit which sector in our society fights against the torpor of cynicism and defeatism?

- a. Education Sector
- b. Art, culture and humanities
- c. Environment Sector
- d. Nonprofit Sector

2. When faced with declining revenues, nonprofits should do all of the following except which one?

- a. Make marketing and public relations a high priority in order not to be a "best-kept secret."
- b. Put off hiring new development staff until times are better.
- c. Bring new members onto the board of directors who can help turn the tide.
- d. Approach volunteers for financial contributions.

3. In which of the following areas does the Red Cross (ICRC) NOT offer services?

- a. Community services for the needy
- b. Support for military members and families
- c. The collection and distribution of blood
- d. Educational programs that promote health and safety
- e. International relief and development programs
- f. Pro bono legal aid

4. What country provides the most humanitarian workers across the world?

- a. US
- b. UK
- c. Japan
- d. Sweden

5. What day is World Humanitarian Day?

- a. 11th February
- b. 19th August
- c. 20th August
- d. 26th August

6. According to a survey by Humanitarian Outcomes, what do humanitarians rate as the best part of their job?

- a. Travelling
- b. Helping others
- c. The people you work with
- d. The financial rewards

7. In 2009, Community World Service Asia (formerly CWS-P/A) assisted how many Pakistanis with water, sanitation and hygiene interventions?

- a. More than 200,000
- b. Around 100,000
- c. More than 150,000
- d. Less than 75,000

8. More than 40 million Pakistani's live on how much a day? (Hint: it is below the internationally defined poverty line)

- a. On \$2.30
- b. On less than \$1.25
- c. On more than \$1
- d. On less than \$2.45

9. In March 2011, Japan was hit by a devastating earthquake and tsunami. What was the magnitude of this deep sea quake?

- a. 8.9
- b. 9.2
- c. 9.0
- d. 8.7

10. The difference between a nonprofit designated a public charity and one designated a private foundation is:

- a. The source of funding
- b. The type of work done
- c. Both of the above
- d. None of the above

Answers: 1 (d), 2 (b), 3 (e), 4 (a), 5 (b), 6 (b), 7 (c), 8 (b), 9 (c), 10 (a)



Marla Ruzicka (1976-2005)

Activist, Aid-Worker

Marla Ruzicka, who at the age of 28 was killed by a car bomb in Baghdad, was a passionate advocate for innocent victims of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Education is critical for people to become compassionate. If you don't know the problem and you don't know the reality, how can you help?

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