

Responding to the Floods in Pakistan

Community World Service Asia assisted flood
affected communities in Sindh Province...

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NEWSLETTER

July - September 2015

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Flood effected children from Ghotki, Sindh
Photographed by Sahar Zafar, July 2015

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Dear Readers,

Greetings and welcome to our summer issue of the Community World Service Asia newsletter!

We hope that you enjoyed reading our first newsletter which covered the first half of this year. This issue covers a wide range of our work carried out in the last three months throughout the Asia region.

Announcements on the key “happenings” in our organization are listed on page 3. A special proclamation of our staff pick of this quarter is published in this issue. The star of the quarter is selected on the basis of the staff’s efficiency and creativity in their contribution towards the organization’s visibility goals.

The summer has been tough on this part of the world as we have experienced a series of natural disasters and man-made conflicts resulting in an overwhelming humanitarian crisis in two of the prime countries that we work in- Pakistan and Afghanistan. You will read short stories of the communities affected by these disasters in the trending section and our cover story focusing solely on our response to the Floods that hit Pakistan this year on page 6.

Star of the Quarter



Alison Sneddon has been picked as our Star of the quarter for her consistent efficiency and brilliant contributions to the Communications Team.

This issue’s other feature story highlights our remarkable work done by the Capacity Institutionalization Project in the field of trainings. Experiences from the Theatre for Development workshop conducted in Hyderabad are shared by participants in this article.

Updates and stories from our health, women empowerment, Quality and Accountability (Q & A) and teachers’ training projects are presented in the Trending section of this newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to this 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.

Happy Reading!

Editorial Team



Shama Mall



Palwashay Arbab



Sahar Zafar



Alison Sneddon



Hasan Imtiaz



Zahra Jabeen



Khalid Rasheed

Contributing to the World Humanitarian Summit.

ACT Alliance and Christian Aid have produced a video titled, "ReShapeAid: Voices from the frontline" for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). Community World Service Asia contributed video clips of messages from the communities they work with in Pakistan and Afghanistan for this special video. Watch the video @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8MVE5iuV5A&feature=youtu.be> and share it with your networks!

Becoming members of the IASC on Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse...

Shama Mall, Deputy Director for the Development and Capacity Enhancement Program at Community World Service Asia, has become a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP PSEA). The team aims at creating a system wide culture of accountability and has currently members from UN organizations, International NGOs and donors.

Signature Campaign for Climate Justice in Sindh and KPK

One hundred and fifty community members, twenty five women, twenty five children and a hundred men, from three union councils in Jerma, Kharmatu and Tappi areas of Sindh and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KPK) provinces of Pakistan took part in a climate justice campaign organized by the Disaster Management Team at Community World Service Asia. A petition to "Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change, Reduce pollution (carbon emission), increase forestation and save the country" was signed by the communities we work with. The campaign was inspired by the ACT Alliance Climate justice online campaign.

Taking part in the Sendai Spring campaign

After successfully participating in and completing the Road-2Sendai campaign, Community World Service has now joined the second leg of the DRR campaign titled "Sendai Spring". The campaign aims to break down global frameworks; and encourage countering local risks with local action through events, social media and community outreach. To know more about the campaign visit: <http://sendaispring.net/aboutsendaispring>

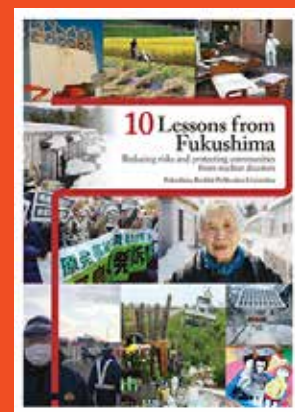
Announcements



Upcoming Trainings

Event	Dates	Location
Introduction to NGO's	Oct 19-22, 2015	Murree
Proposal Writing - II	Oct 27-28, 2015	Islamabad
Thematic Session #2	Nov 16, 2015	Lahore
Financial Management for Small NGO's	Nov 17-20, 2015	Peshawar
Regional Event on Quality & Accountability (A Training of Trainers Course on Sphere and Companions)	Nov 30- Dec 04, 2015	Bangkok, Thailand
Project Management	Dec 8-11, 2015	Multan
Human Resource Development (Advanced)	Dec 9-11, 2015	Islamabad

Suggested Reading



Suggested Reading: "10 Lessons from Fukushima"

This book provides information on the effects of exposure to radiation, and how at-risk people can better protect their health, homes and livelihoods in the event of a nuclear crisis. It is available in several languages including English.

The book talks about controversial issues like how nuclear power was promoted through advertising and other methods and it also discourages the creation of the safety myth.

10 Lessons from Fukushima is co-authored by Takeshi Kominato, Deputy Director Resource Mobilization Unit at Community World Service Asia.

Projects Launched in this Quarter

1. Provision of Emergency Food Assistance to the Flood Affected Families in District Sajawal, Sindh, Pakistan
2. Promoting Sustainable Agriculture Practices to Improve Food Security and Livelihoods of Vulnerable and Marginalized Farmers of District Badin, Sindh
3. Health Assistance to the Flood-Affected Families in Sindh, Pakistan

Crossing 1200 likes on our Facebook Page

We Have Reached a 1200 “Like” Milestone on Facebook!

Thank you to all of our followers, new and old, for helping us get there.

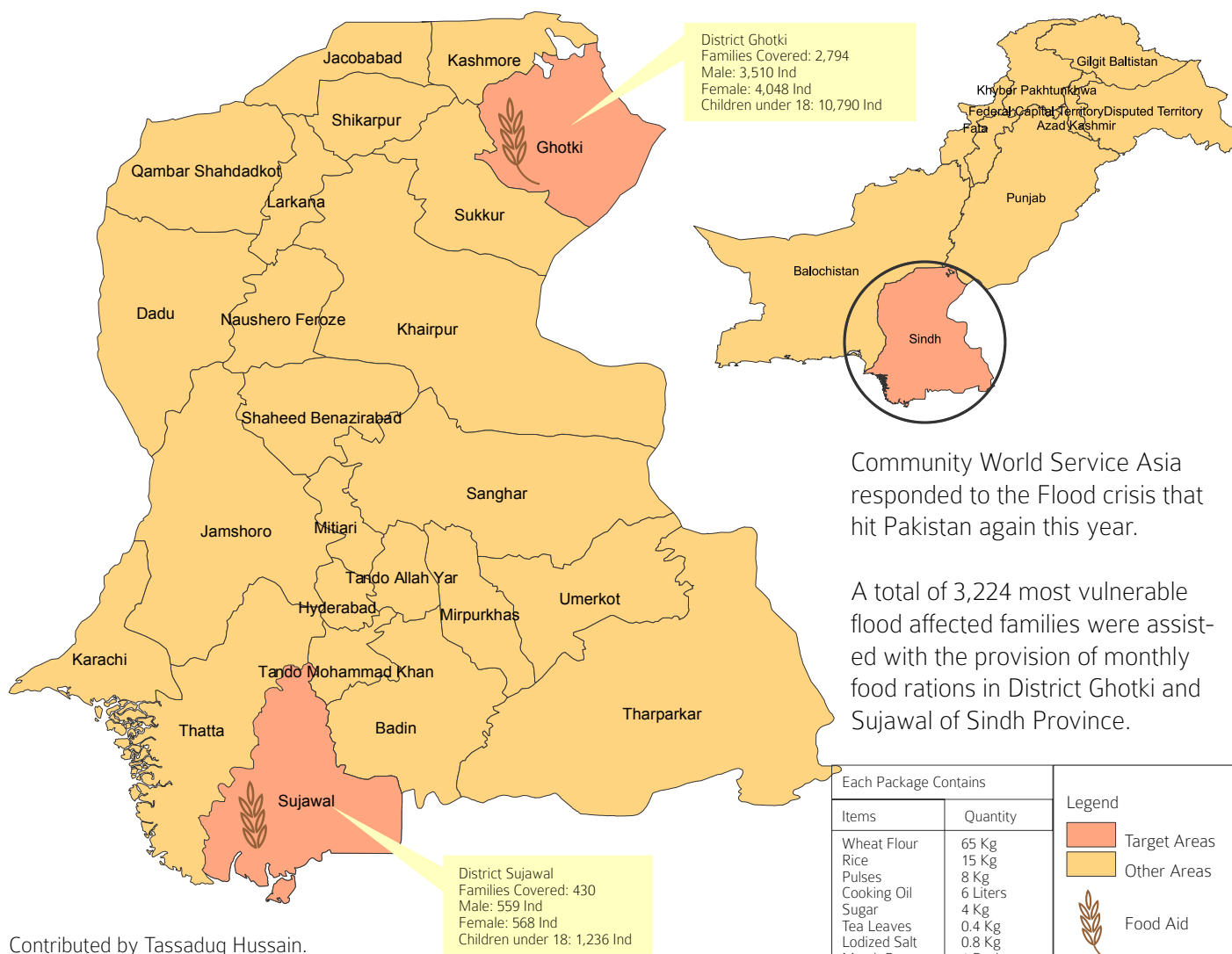
Post Reach: Organically our posts have reached around to 17k users on Facebook. Recent average post reach is 786.

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/communityworldserviceasia>

Features



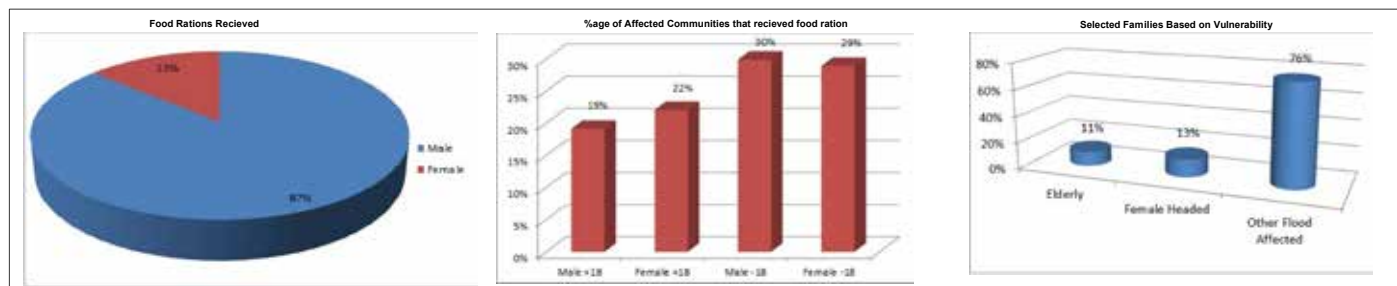
Responding to the Floods 2015



Community World Service Asia responded to the Flood crisis that hit Pakistan again this year.

A total of 3,224 most vulnerable flood affected families were assisted with the provision of monthly food rations in District Ghotki and Sujawal of Sindh Province.

Each Package Contains		Legend
Items	Quantity	
Wheat Flour	65 Kg	Target Areas
Rice	15 Kg	
Pulses	8 Kg	Other Areas
Cooking Oil	6 Liters	
Sugar	4 Kg	Food Aid
Tea Leaves	0.4 Kg	
Lodized Salt	0.8 Kg	
Match Box	1 Pack	



Views from the Right holders

Project: Food Aid Distribution for Flood Affected families in District Ghotki and Sujjawal, Sindh, Pakistan

This Response was funded by the START Network, Christian Aid (CA), Danish Church Aid (DCA) and United Methodist Committee for Relief (UMCOR) months, the Q&A deployment was lengthened to six months based on assessments made during the first few weeks.



Kheri Goth Nihal Chachar UC Qadirpur

"We had no food and remained hungry for three days after the floods hit our village. With this support in the shape of food packages, my family and I can now have three meals a day." Mae Karman, 63 years.



Village Habib Chachar UC Qadirpur

"The food ration support has liberated me from the burden of spending all my little income on providing food for my family at this difficult time. I can instead focus on fulfilling the other needs of my family." Mae Nazeeran, a physically disabled widow and project participant.



Village Ghulam Haider UC Qadirpur

"The floods had put additional burden on my already low income, as it washed away with it all my belongings and destroyed two rooms of my house. My wife and myself are currently living with my elderly and ill parents in one room. Having lost my main livelihood because of the floods, I was worried about providing sufficient meals for my family. This food assistance has been very timely and of good quality. It has been a great support for my family and me." Mohammad Ilyas, 33 years.



Performing for a Cause: Training on Theatre for Development

Written by Hassan Imtiaz

Art is a talent that exposes a culture to the outer world. It is a tool that can be used to spread social awareness, promote culture, preserve traditions and can play a pivotal role in societal development. Theatre for Development is one such form of art. It is practiced with the people, by the people and for the people as a way of empowering communities, disseminating messages, listening to their concerns, and encouraging them to voice and resolve their problems.

Community World Service Asia conducted a seven day residential training on "Theatre for Development" from August 17th to 23rd in Hyderabad city, Sindh. The training was attended by 24 participants; eight women and sixteen men from eight different organizations having their own theatre groups. Facilitated by Dr. Asif Memon and Ms. Kaz Bano, the main objective of this training was to equip and facilitate participants in exploring the dynamics and application of theatre as a communication tool in addressing social issues and sensitizing diverse communities.

Through a variety of interactive and stimulating activities, participants learnt and explored the fundamentals of theatre and the art of creating stories. Participants were

also familiarized on how to be creative with groups and how performers can instill issue based content in developing an interactive theatre act. The training sessions were exciting, followed a participatory approach and were conducted in both Sindhi and Urdu languages.

Participants shared that they have been practicing theatre for some time but they had never attended any specific training on this art. According to them, the training enabled them to learn different improvisation techniques such as the use of body language, eye contact, sound, voice and rhythm in a play which they were not aware of before. The participants shared that this training has boosted their confidence and creativity levels which will facilitate them in working with communities belonging to varying demographics. They now understand the varying perceptions in a population much better. Some participants were already trained theatre performers and had relevant media exposure but they also admitted to have learnt many new techniques during the training. Three community members from Thatta, completely new to this field of art, attended the training as well. Bakhtawar, from Thatta, had never travelled out of her village due to cultural restrictions. She seemed shy initially but gradually gained confidence during the training sessions and by the end gave one of the best and most animated performances of the training.

Participants Voices:



"I have been performing theatre since years but had never attended a training on the subject. This was my first training and I learnt many new communication techniques on how to perform for people coming from different social and cultural backgrounds; what sort of words and body language to adopt to convey the message most effectively" - **Rizwan Memon**



"This training was very interactive and participatory. I got a chance to polish my observation, and thinking skills and I am grateful to Community World Service Asia for giving me the opportunity to attend this training. I will share my learning with all other members of my theatre group." - **Junaid Ali**, an owner of a theatre group and training participant.



"Although I also act in some TV Plays, my main focus is theatre. Theatre is real and meaningful and solely based on social issues. Through this training, I have learned a lot of new techniques on stage behavior and on how to direct a play, which will be really helpful for me in the future." - **Yaseen Chan**, an experienced theatre performer and media personnel.



"I had some experience of theatre acting with my organization. But this training was very fruitful for me in terms of learning the many different techniques and methods of theatre performance." **Prianka Goil**



"I have been acting in TV plays and have also participated in community based theatre performances but this training has taught me a lot more. I feel that i can now improve my acting skills not only in theatre but also in on-screen performances in the future." **Farzana Khan**



"The chemistry and the coordination between trainers is the best example of Theatre. After attending this training, my mindset about women has changed. I now feel that they are an important part of this society and have realized that theatre should begin with our own house, our own family and then community." **Mohammad Hanif**, Community member from Thatta.



"It was a new training for me. I have learnt a lot and my confidence has increased now since my skills of observation, communication have been enhanced through this training. I can now write my own plays and perform them in my own community." - **Hannah Popat**



"I have attended many training workshops before this one. However, this experience was totally different. One can learn so much from such a training until he/she takes keen interest and participates fully. One can learn theatre acting only by practising it not by watching it alone." **Abdul Hafeez Khatti**



New opportunities for women from all walks of life: An elderly member of a Women's Enterprise Group in Thatta, Sindh



Three generations stand ankle-deep in floodwater





A young patient receives treatment



Waving hello to a future empowered by literacy: women at the new Adult Literacy Center in Village Ranta, Sindh



An elderly man holds his granddaughter after evacuating their home to escape flooding



Leaders of the future: Youth participants attend a training workshop on minority rights

Trending



Fulfilling Arjun's aspirations to Learn

Written by Alison Sneddon

Arjun, from District Thando Allah Yar in Sindh Province, Pakistan, is the third of eight children in his family. Like most people in the area, his father is an agricultural worker, and his family lives in poverty. Pakistan has one of the lowest levels of government expenditure on education in the world, with only 2.1 percent of GDP allocated to the education sector. Under-funded and under-resourced, education across the country is challenged by an outdated curriculum, a shortage of materials, overcrowded classrooms and an insufficient number of teachers. Pakistan has the second largest out-of-school population in the world, and less than half of the country's boys complete primary school.

Like many children in Pakistan, however, Arjun recognizes the importance of education and is determined to complete his schooling. Community World Service Asia, as part of its Transformational Learning and Development program, has conducted residential camps for students and teachers to enhance, support and complement education. The camps provide an opportunity for students and teachers to build positive, communicative relationships and engage in interactive, participatory learning. By emphasizing creativity and innovation, the camps build the confidence of students and support them to develop their critical thinking and analysis skills, while exploring a variety of new subjects, such as peace education, child rights and gender issues.

"I never got a chance for such learning activities," Arjun shares. "I never thought that I would participate in such a camp. I have new friends now like Naveed, Abdul, Razaque and Aswer. We got the chance to share many things, especially about our villages, schools and life with each other. This camp has changed my life entirely."

In spite of the many challenges ahead of him, Arjun is positive that he will be able to overcome them and pursue his education. He believes that education has the power to bring change to places like his village.

"I cannot express my feelings for this opportunity which was provided to me from my school. I am very thankful to Community World Service Asia and my school for this opportunity. I don't know about other's feelings, but for me it is a great blessing."



Washing away homes, but not hope

Written by Rabia Sabri

Roshan Bibi is a 70 year old widow and grandmother from the Sab-zabad district of Nangarhar province in Afghanistan. She lives with her married son, his family and her physically disabled daughter in their residential village house. A total of eight family members are supported by her son, who is a rickshaw driver by profession and the only income bearer for the entire household. He earns AFN 6000 (US \$ 100) per month.

After receiving a training on poultry management from another NGO active in the area a few months ago, Roshan Bibi started feeling a sense of empowerment and independence as she started contributing to the household expenses. She had bought egg-producing birds which she raised and fed and in return earned money out of this farming domesticated birds. She earnestly remembered, "I was very happy raising my own poultry as it produced eggs and also on some occasions their meat was used to feed my grandchildren. I sold their eggs in my neighborhood and earned sufficient money out of it. Unfortunately, the recent floods washed away all my belongings and investments. My hens were all swept by the floods."

The disheartened grandmother gloomily recalled the dreadful day of the floods hitting their village. "In the month of Ramazan the village elders warned us about the fierce flood water fast approaching our village and asked us to evacuate and shift to a safer area. Most of the village residents had a very short time to evacuate so they could only save their lives and that of their families, leaving behind everything else. Our fellow village residents, including us, took shelter in another neighboring village that was relatively safer for three days."

"We had no time to take any of our belongings with us as we rushed out of our home and village. In all the panic, we even forgot one of my new born grandchildren in the house. Thankfully, we soon realized we had left the new born in the house and rushed back quickly to rescue him and evacuate out of the village."

Besides damaging millions worth of property and infrastructure, the floods created a sense of panic and insecurity among the affected communities. The adverse psychological impact of this natural disaster are fairly evident. People were reluctant to return to their houses even as the flood water levels receded. Children cried at every sound of thunder and every drop of rain thinking it would result in a flood again.

Roshan Bibi expressed, "It was in the beginning of Ramzan that the floods came and we returned back to our homes after the flood water subsided. Those days were the toughest for businesses and my son's income suffered as badly as all the other daily wagers

in the district. His monthly earning reduced to half of the usual. And with my poultry gone as well, it was very hard to manage the household expenditure or to even provide an adequate meal for our family. Luckily, at just this difficult time, our family was selected for Community World Service Asia's food assistance scheme for flood affected families."

The one month food assistance not only provided an adequate diet for the family of eight but also enabled Roshan Bibi to save the money spent on buying food to invest in resuming her poultry farming. She soon bought 20 hatchlings that will start producing eggs in another three to four months. The determined grandmother is hoping to expand her poultry farming business within the neighborhood but constantly fears of more floods that could possibly threaten her plans.

Restoring the education system through strengthening Teachers' skills and learning spaces

Written by Alison Sneddon

Raazia is a teacher at Mashakhil Girls' Primary, Middle and High School in the Qarghaee district of Laghman Province, Afghanistan. The Taliban regime had a devastating effect on education in Afghanistan, particularly for girls' schools like the one in which Raazia teaches. Following the fall of the Taliban in 2001, enrolment has increased from around 900,000 students to an estimated 8.3 million in 2011, indicating a high level of commitment and dedication to education around the country. However, progress is impeded by a lack of access to school facilities, unstable security conditions, a lack of teachers, particularly female teachers, and low levels of training and qualification.

For Raazia, the legacy of the Taliban regime is personal. She lost a leg during the war, and wants to see an end to fighting in her country. She is the oldest of nine children, and the guardian of her family, as her parents are ill and her six sisters have not had access to education.

Community World Service Asia works to support teachers and students in Afghanistan to enhance the quality of education by training teachers in interactive and participatory teaching techniques, and the use of low and no cost materials. The project also includes construction of playgrounds and distribution of school and sports kits for students, and engaging with the community to encourage the enrolment of children, especially girls, in school.

Raazia attended Community World Service Asia's Transformational Learning and Development camp for students and teachers. The purpose of the camps is to develop the confidence, social skills and creativity of underprivileged students, while fostering positive, interactive relationships between students and teachers. The camps also support teachers to learn new teaching skills and to introduce a variety of activities and methodologies into their classrooms. As well as concepts of peace, child rights and gender education, the camps equip teachers to engage children through storytelling, book making, talent shows and decorating the classroom. Practical skills, such as health, hygiene, first aid, disaster preparedness and leadership, are also explored through the camp.

The training on teaching methodology was new to Raazia, and she was positive about applying this knowledge to her teaching, involving the students and providing them with opportunities to express and explore their thoughts.

Raazia shared that she had never participated in such a camp before, and that she had learned about many of the topics for the first time: "I have learnt a lot because I have never attended any camp before. I will transfer this knowledge to other students and teachers as well."



Grief takes over Kunduz

Written by Hazrat Ali Hamid

It was a pleasant sunny morning of June 20th when Mohammad Amin was on his way to the orchards to pick out some watermelon and vegetables to sell in the village market when suddenly he heard people screaming, crying and shouting.

Amin immediately realized something unpleasant had happened in the village. As he was running towards the village, a passerby told him about the conflict that had arisen between the governmental troops and militants and that the combat was ongoing. The village was in complete disarray as residents were running away to save their lives and screaming for help. The fight continued for over thirty minutes.

A number of militants were killed in this battle while some were injured. When the combat seized and the raid had ended, village residents rushed to their houses to inquire about their families, friends and neighbors. Amin recalled, "Upon reaching my village I could not recognize it. There was rubble everywhere. The bombing had completely demolished my house and there was nothing but debris left of it. Other villages saw the same scene. People were frantically trying to find their family members. I found mine in the midst of all the rubble. My father and youngest sister had lost their lives as their dead bodies laid still on the ground, while I spotted my mother and another sister on the ground, covered in blood and injured. The grief and pain that overcame me at that sight cannot be explained. It was an extremely trying time for me but I had to gather strength and be strong. All the surviving villagers helped each other shift the injured and the deceased bodies to safer grounds.

A teary eyed and grief struck Amin further narrated, "Everyone tried to leave the area as soon as possible since the battle came to our own village. We also decided to migrate to Khakani village which is located near Kunduz city. I took up daily labor to ensure a livelihood for my injured mother and sister. The initial few days in Khakani were spent without food but we survived it even though we were all fasting as it was Ramadan at the time. The residents of Khakani were very supportive and welcoming but their poor financial conditions did not allow them to provide food for the migrated families."

Mohammad Amin is the son of deceased Mohammad Akbar of Qarya-e-Yateem village of Chardar District in Kunduz Province. He is 27 years old and is the youngest member of the family, with an academic qualification of grade 12 but since there are no other job opportunities in the area, he makes a living through daily labour.

In the middle of the month of Ramazan, humanitarian aid in the province starting pouring in. Community World Service Asia among other organizations came to Khakani and surrounding villages to

conduct need assessments and provide immediate humanitarian assistance. Amin's family was among those that were supported with one month food assistance by Community World Service Asia.

"The food rations we received were of good quality and was enough for us to survive comfortably over a month. In fact, we also shared some our food with our neighbors who were also deprived of food for long. This timely assistance enabled us to survive the grave time that we were going through. People like us who have been displaced are still in need of support though. We need assistance to build back our houses and regain a stable source of living."



Empowering Communities for Sustainable Change

Written by Alison Sneddon

In Union Council Bijora, Thatta, Sindh Province, most villagers earn their income through agriculture, unskilled labor and traditional handicrafts. To meet their basic needs, many villagers travel to other cities to find opportunities for work. In order to empower the community to develop according to its specific needs and priorities, with strong sustainability and ownership, Community World Service Asia has introduced the two-tier community mobilization model, forming local village and community organizations.

Phull Jakhro is the president of his Village Organization and an activist in his village, who is always exploring opportunities to address the social and economic problems faced by the community: "We are trying to improve our selves and make us able to talk in front of any one to advocate our collective issues," he shares.

Although he initially faced many challenges in engaging community members in development initiatives, he continued working to create a sense ownership among the village. The community is now involved in a variety of development initiatives, including Community World Service Asia's adult literacy center, vocational training center, disaster risk reduction and health awareness sessions.

Two particular achievements stand out as examples of the effectiveness of community mobilization. A school has been established, funded and managed entirely by the community members at a cost of Rs. 60,000 (approximately US\$600), and, following an exposure visit to a neighboring village, a common wash room has been constructed to address the practice of open defecation at a cost of Rs. 18,000 (approximately US\$180).

Phull Jakhro shares, "This is what I am looking forward to in my village, which is happening with the support of Community World Service Asia. It is a fact that without the formation of the village organization, we can't get together and discuss our collective issues and their possible solutions. Today I am happy that we have our own school for the kids and we are representing ourselves at Union Council level, and even a kid of my village can raise his voice for his rights."



Responding to Sakina's prayers

Written by Palwashay Arbab

"I am Sakina Banu and 28 years old widow and a mother of three children; a daughter and two sons. My youngest son is 10 months old and was born a few months after the death of my husband Shabir Ahmed, who died tragically in a road accident. Both of my elder children go to school. My husband worked at a daily wage in Rawalakot and inherited 4 kanals (0.5 Acres) of land in our home village Bring Bun, Miloo Wali. He was the only income bearer of our family."

Shabir Ahmed had recently constructed a house for his family with the money he earned through his labor work. The family of five lived contently in their small but new house. Although, the family had not many financial means but lived a peaceful and comfortable life. The sudden tragic death of Shabir however turned things around; life became difficult for the young widow and her children.

After the death of Shabir, Sakina Banu and her children are supported by her aging father, elderly father-in-law and some close relatives; they all are daily wagers. Just a week after Shabir's unfortunate death, heavy rains engulfed the area. The hill side village was flooded with rain water.

"It was 06:00 am in the morning when our neighbors started banging our doors and shouting amidst the heavy showers asking us to vacate the house and the village immediately. Deep in slumber, I woke up alarmed, grabbed my children from their beds and rushed out without thinking twice. The land where our houses were constructed was sliding down slowly and we could see our houses cracking away. We had shifted to a neighbor's house that was at a relatively safer location in the same area. We stood there in sheer panic and fear as we witnessed our home shaking and sliding away. However, we ran back quickly to the house to pick up some of our belonging and livestock before it was too late. It felt like a recap of the 2005 earthquake."

"The following afternoon, the earth shook with a loud explosion as huge lumps of land started sliding downwards from the hill side. It was just like the rumble and shudder of an earthquake until we saw a huge gush of water hitting our village within seconds. The flood water first landed in our village graveyard, digging up ten graves along the way. My late husband's newly settled grave was among them."

Five houses were completely flattened out by the land slide and the gushing water. One of them was Sakina Bano's house and the

others' her brother-in-law's. Twelve more houses along with their cattle sheds were partially damaged by the landslide but were left in unlivable conditions. Most of the agricultural land and vegetable gardens were also destroyed.

"I have been through three major shocks within three weeks; the sudden death of my husband, this terrifying land slide and the complete destruction of my house, cattle shed and agricultural land which had just produced maize crop," a broken Sakina sighed. "I felt as if my fate is testing me. I had no choice except to accept this will of God and remain strong for my fatherless children. I could only pray for help as my humble parents and relatives were not in any financial position to re-construct my house and financially support me as I needed at that time. My children and I now live with my parents since no one else has come forward to support us at this time of distress"

"Due to the heavy rains, the entrance roads to our village remained blocked for weeks which is why none of the government agencies or voluntary organizations could reach to help us immediately. The entire District of Haveli was severely affected by the rains and floods. We lost all hopes of living a normal care free life since the horrifying rains. Every time it would drizzle even our hearts would skip a beat and we would go out and check if the land is sliding or the ground is shaking. The children of the village were psychologically affected as well since there was constant fear of the disaster happening again. We made peace with our fate and stayed in the village since we could not afford moving to another village."

Community World Service Asia started needs assessment in Sakina's home village in early March 2015 and continued till the month of July. "Observing the continuous visits of Community World Service Asia, we, the residents of Bring Bun, gained some hope. We felt that this organization was different than the others since they visited very often and assessed the land slide sites in detail. We were overjoyed with relief when we were informed about Community World Service Asia's disaster mitigation and rehabilitation project starting in our village. When the project was installed and the laying of lime powder by project staff started, all the women and children of the village visited the site and gleamed with happiness."

"Since the start of the project, we had been closely observing the work of Community World Service Asia, we saw that their staff monitored the project activities on a daily basis. They kept a check on the quality and speed of work which reassured us that our life would come back to normal soon. We felt that we could sleep without fear again."

The construction of the retaining walls under the project ensured that the free flow of flood water from the hill side is blocked and diverted towards the natural streams, hence protecting the village from landslides and its aftermaths. The walls were constructed through Cash for Work (Cfw) schemes which employed the local community members for labor. Sakina's father, father-in law and her brothers were all participants of the Cfw schemes. They are now planning to reconstruct Sakina's as well as their own houses and cattle sheds and work on reviving their farming land with the money earned.



Providing Vital Health Services for Underserved Communities

Shumila's story

Shumila, 30 years old, is a resident of Ranta village in Union Council Bijora, Sindh. Her husband works in unskilled labor, earning just Rs. 200 (approximately US\$2) a day. To support her family, Shumila makes and sells traditional patchwork quilts (rilli) and embroidery work, earning around Rs. 1,200 (approximately US\$12) each month. When she was pregnant with her first child, Shumila became concerned about the costs they would face when she gave birth.

"Keeping in view our monthly earning, I was worried about how we would bear the expenses of medicine and transportation which may be needed for the childbirth, which would cost us a lot."

A member of the women's health management committee (HMC), established by Community World Service Asia to support the activities of the MNCH center, told her about the pre- and ante- natal services provided by the center, and availability of trained female health practitioners who would be able to assist her with her delivery and provide with quality treatment and support.

"During my first visit to the MNCH centre, I found satisfactory assistance from the lady doctor. She provide me with a few medicines and advise me on proper diet during pregnancy."

Shumila then started to visit the center regularly for pre-natal assistance throughout her pregnancy, and when she went into labor, Dr. Shazia helped her to safely deliver a baby girl.

"Before meeting with the HMC member, I was unaware of childbirth assistance available at such a low cost of Rs. 30 [approximately US\$0.30], otherwise I would need to bear a cost of around Rs. 3000 [approximately US\$30]."

Shumila is now enjoying her time with her new daughter, and is continuing to receive post-natal care from the MNCH centre.

"I am thankful to Community World service Asia for provision of such a quality service at very low cost at our doorstep, I will share this information with other villagers too. I hope Community World Service Asia will continue this service and poor community will benefit more and more."

Child Mortality Rates (Per 1,000 Births)



Maternal and Neonatal Health in Pakistan

According to UNICEF:

- Pakistan has the third highest rate of newborn deaths in the world.
- 618 newborn babies die in Pakistan every day.
- Sindh and Punjab provinces have the country's highest infant mortality rates, with 81 per 1,000 births.
- Sindh also has the highest under-five mortality rate, with 101 per 1,000 children dying before their first birthday.
- One in every 89 Pakistani women will die during childbirth, compared with one in 8,000 in the developed world.
- Women in rural areas are 80% more likely to die during childbirth than women in urban areas.
- For every maternal death in Pakistan, there are 30 to 50 women who survive with a disability.

Working to Improve the Health of Mothers and Children

With the support of Church of Scotland, Community World Service Asia has established a Maternal and Neonatal Child Health Center in Union Council Bijora in the Sindh province. The project has had a significant impact since 2012.

41%
increase in the number of births attended by a lady doctor



24%
increase in the number of women vaccinated during pregnancy



47%
increase in the number of women practicing family planning



Trivia



1. How many people have been forcibly displaced from their homes globally due to conflict in 2015?

- A. Around 60 Million
- B. Around 1 Billion
- C. Around 6 Million

2. The region that gets most affected by natural disasters each year is:

- A. Asian Region
- B. Hilly Region
- C. Poorest region

3. Economic losses from natural disasters are projected to increase dramatically; they have now reached to what amount annually?

- A. \$89 Million
- B. \$300 Billion
- C. \$100 Billion

4. By 2050, how many people around the world could be displaced by the impact of climate change?

- A. 10 million
- B. 90 million
- C. 1 billion

5. Which country is in the grip of its most severe crisis in years, as competing forces fight for control over it?

- A. Iraq
- B. Syria
- C. Yemen

6. The recent floods in Pakistan resulted in wastage of how many acres of irrigated land?

- A. 2 Million acres
- B. 1.3 Million acres
- C. 1100 acres

7. How many people have been displaced due to the crisis in Syria?

- A. 1.5 million
- B. 11.5 million
- C. 115 million

8. How is the situation of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh defined by European Community Humanitarian aid Office (ECHO)?

- A. Political Crisis
- B. Forgotten Crisis
- C. Smoldering Crisis

9. The Ebola epidemic, which has hit a number of West African countries since 2014, has caused how many deaths so far?

- A. 1,000
- B. 11,000
- C. 1 Million

10. Approximately 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty throughout the world. How many die every day?

- A. An estimated 7,000
- B. An estimated 21,000
- C. An estimated 45,000

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



Kyla Mueller (1988 - 2015)

Images of children suffering in the early stages of Syria's ongoing civil war prompted 26 year old Mueller to leave her home in Prescott, Ariz., in December, 2012, to work with the Danish Refugee Council and the humanitarian organization Support to Life to help refugees. Kayla Mueller found the work heart-breaking but compelling. She was taken hostage in Syria by terrorists back in August of 2013. ISIS released a statement on February 6, 2015 claiming that she was killed by one of around a dozen Jordanian airstrikes in Al-Raqqah (Raqqah, Syria).

"It's important to stop and realize what we have, why we have it and how privileged we are. And from that place, start caring and get a lot done."

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