

Theatrical Activism Promotes Women's Rights

As part of our Women's Empowerment program,
supported by Christian Aid, Community World
Service Asia is engaging...

Continue reading at page 4

NEWSLETTER

October - December 2015

Volume 1, Issue 3

Older women attending theatre performance,
Abdullah Ghoto, Thatta, Sindh
Photographed by Khalid Rasheed, December 2015

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Dear Readers,

Happy New Year and welcome to our winter issue of the Community World Service Asia newsletter!

This is also our last issue of 2015 and we hope that you enjoyed reading all our newsletters this past year. As always, you will find a mix of coverage of our various program as you read into this newsletter. Unfortunately the region that we work in experienced disasters in this last quarter that you will also see our response to in this issue.

Announcements regarding the quarter's high points, our new projects and the exciting upcoming trainings are listed on page 3. The star of the quarter this time is our very own designer and web editor without whom the Communications team cannot function. Hats off to him for his brilliant work throughout the year and not just this quarter!

Following the summer's natural calamities, Pakistan and Afghanistan were once again hit by back to back earthquakes between October to November. The active tectonic plate movements in the Hindukush mountain range have severely affected the populations of both the countries' northern areas. Our response in the

Star of the Quarter



Khalid Rasheed has been picked as our Star of the quarter for his brilliant design skills, efficient web management and commitment towards the Communications Team.

earthquake affected areas has been covered in the feature and trending sections of this issue.

The cover story of this quarter focuses on one of our most engaging projects in Pakistan. As a vital part of our Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods project, the use of theatre was initiated as a means of promoting awareness on issues of sexual and reproductive health, and gender based violence with the participation of the local community in Sindh. Have a look at this visually detailed feature on the theatre based activities on pages 4 and 5.

More updates from our quality and accountability, health, education and disaster response programs are further published in the trending section starting from page 9.

We would like 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.

Enjoy this edition!

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Leaders of Change...

Community World Service Asia received the Mehergarh AASHA Award of Excellence and the MEHERGARH Award for Leaders of Change for caring for their female employees, especially by enactment of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law for the Workplace.

Minority Conference...

The National Lobbying Delegation (NLD) for Minority Rights and Community World Service Asia is organizing a conference this January in Islamabad. More than 250 community leaders of various religious minorities from across the country will be participating in this event. The conference will discuss personal laws of religious minorities with a primary focus on legislation of the Hindu Marriage Bill.

Investing in the future of the development sector...

Under the Capacity Institutionalization Project, Community World Service Asia partnered with higher education institutions to extend its support and technical expertise for improvements in the course outline and students' professional grooming. Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) were signed with University of Peshawar and COMSATS Institute of Information Technologies, Abbottabad, while consultations with University of the Punjab in Lahore and University of Agriculture in Faisalabad are underway.

The venture offers support to universities in organizing short trainings aimed at giving practical exposure to students along with revised knowledge about the NGO sector to better equip them with the required skills and information to become a future development professional.

Projects launched in this Quarter:

1. Connecting Creativity: Urban Market Access for Rural Artisan Women in Thatta, Umerkot and Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan.
2. Promoting Sustainable Agriculture Practices to Improve Food Security and Livelihoods of Vulnerable and Marginalized Farmers in Badin, Sindh, Pakistan.
3. ACT Alliance Rapid Relief for Earthquake affected communities in Shangla, Pakistan.
4. Humanitarian Assistance to Earthquake affected families in Shangla, Pakistan
5. Humanitarian Assistance to Earthquake affected families in Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Pakistan.
6. Emergency Assistance for Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan refugees and Asylum Seekers in Iran

Announcements



Upcoming Trainings

Event	Dates	Location
Training of Students of BS Social Work Program Module I:	Jan 26-28, 2016	Peshawar
Training of Students of BS Social Work Program Module I:	Feb 02-04, 2016	Lahore
Training of Students of BS Social Work Program Module I:	Feb 05-06, 2016	Abbottabad
Training of Trainers on Sphere Minimum Standards	Feb 15-19, 2016	Nepal
Advanced HR Training	Feb 23 - 25, 2016	Karachi
Thematic Session # 2	Feb 29 16, 2016	Peshawar
Training of Trainers on Sphere and its Companions	April 04-08, 2016	Thailand
Monitoring & Evaluation	April 5-7, 2016	Islamabad
Training of Trainers on Sphere Minimum Standards	April 17-21, 2016	Afghanistan
Project Design	April 26-28, 2016	Lahore
Action Research Course	May 30 - June 3, 2016	TBD

Suggested Reading



In September 2013, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) contracted Oxford Policy Management (OPM) and the University of East Anglia (UEA) to conduct Strategic research into national and local capacity building for disaster risk management. The overarching question guiding the research activities was 'what works and why?' This report sets out the findings of the research, covering trends in

capacity building for disaster risk management (DRM), providing lessons learned in relation to the process and content of DRM capacity-building interventions, and outlining recommendations for policy-makers and programme implementers. The full report can be read @ <http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/Research/version-2/StrategicResearch-SynthesisReport-FN-LR.pdf>

Features



Theatrical Activism Promotes Women's Rights

As part of our Women's Empowerment program, supported by Christian Aid, Community World Service Asia is engaging community volunteers from rural villages in Thatta, Sindh province, to use theater as a tool to promote awareness on issues of sexual and reproductive health, and gender based violence.

Theater is an extremely effective way of communicating complex and sensitive issues to audiences with limited exposure to such themes and low levels of literacy. In order to support the acceptability of the messages, Community World Service Asia is working with boys and girls from the community, training them in interactive theater skills and techniques.

As part of the United Nations "16 Days of Activism" campaign against gender based violence, four community theater performances were held for 130 men and women from Union Council Bijora in Thatta.

Soomri, a 70, shared how the theater performance

affected her: "I have realized, after watching this, that I am sorry to my daughter-in-law for not caring for their prenatal health and that they weren't assisted during childbirth by a trained attendant. Now, I will talk to other women about sexual and reproductive health."

Local religious leader, Rab Dino, 64 years old, also found the performance to be thought provoking. "Early marriages must be stopped and we as community shouldn't victimize our daughters due to financial burden, because it is not good for mother and child both." He will now use his Friday sermons to advocate to the community and discourage the child marriage of girls.

The importance of these messages was made clear by Soohn, a 48 year old resident of Union Council Bijora. She gave birth to six daughters, and faced harsh criticisms from her husband and his family because she had no sons. "I wish this had been performed in my time to educate my in-laws so that they can see it."



The performances addressed the importance of maternal health and the dangers of neglecting pre- and post-natal care, as well as issues of gender based violence and child marriage



Performances were held for female and male audiences so that community members would feel at ease



The theater performance follows the story of a young girl. Here, we see her father sending her away to be married.



The young girl talks to her new husband and his family about family planning and sexual and reproductive health.



Her husband's family complain to their son about her, as they are angry that she is discussing these sensitive issues.

The importance of family planning and sexual and reproductive health is made clear when the young girl dies in childbirth as her health was neglected.



Theater is an engaging way of communicating such important issues, as it provides entertainment for the community

Theater is also a great way to share information with communities where literacy is very low



Performances are held for all community members, young and old



Performances are interactive, inviting the audience to engage with what is happening on the stage

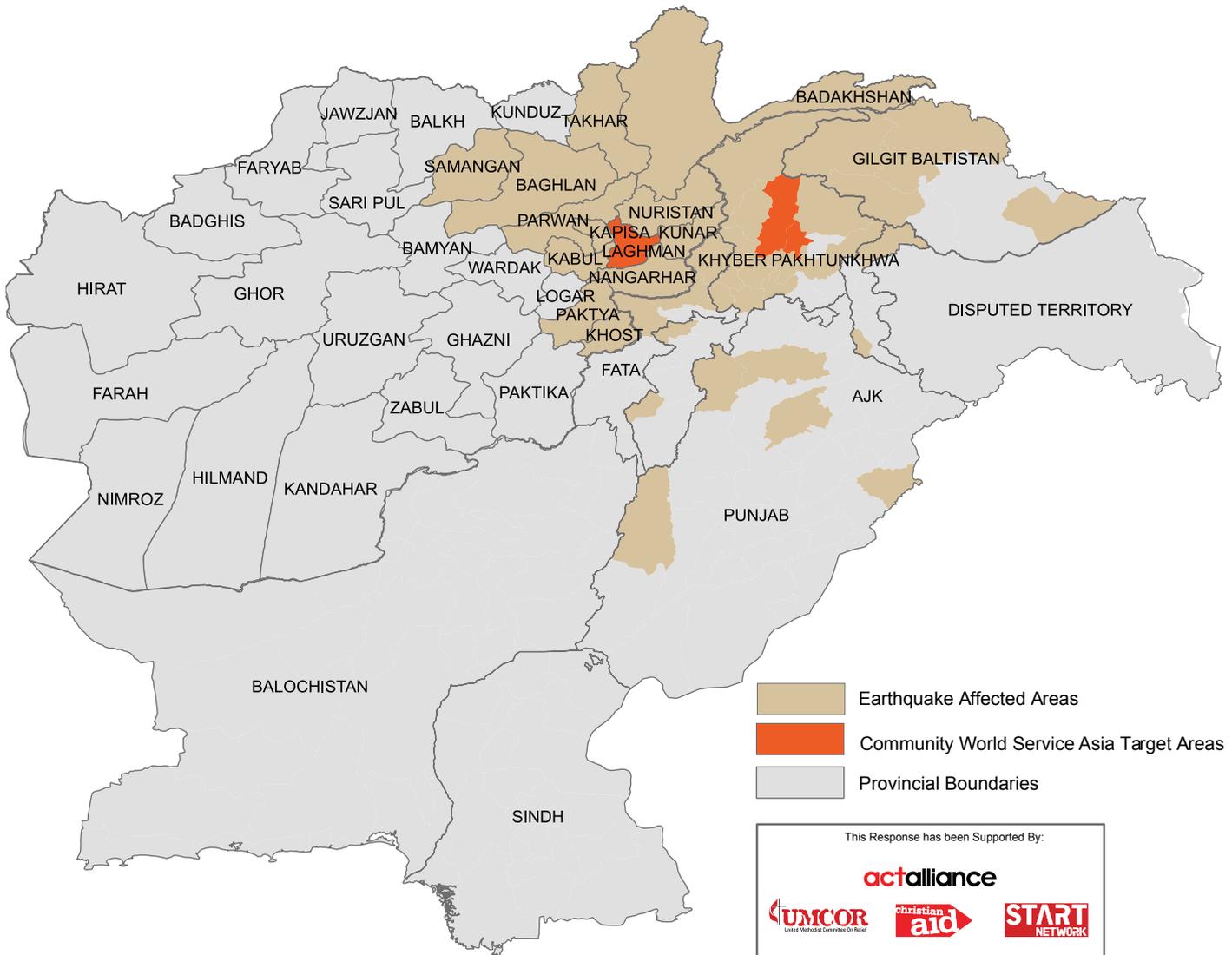


Issues of sexual and reproductive health are relevant to women of all ages. Mothers-in-law hold a position of influence in the household, and can encourage their daughters and daughters-in law to take care of their health.



Theater performances are a way for women to raise their voices and be empowered to discuss the issues which affect them the most.

ASSISTING EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN PAKISTAN & AFGHANISTAN



A 7.5 magnitude earthquake rocked parts of Pakistan, Afghanistan and India on the afternoon of October 26, 2015. According to the US Geological Survey, the earthquake was centered at Jurm, Northeast of Afghanistan in the Hindukush mountain ranges. It was measured at a depth 213.4 kilometres and had affected northern Pakistan and Afghanistan the most.

Khyber Pukhtunkhwa remained the worst affected province in Pakistan, where districts of Chitral, Shangla and Swat experienced the most destruction. While Badakshan, Kunar and Laghman were reported as the most affected regions in Afghanistan.

Community World Service Asia was the first organization to respond to the earthquake affected people on the very third day of the earthquake. It started with immediate health support and then expanding the operation with the provision of food and winterization kits in district Shangla and Swat.



“Winterization was one of the top priority need for the earthquake affected families so as to enable them to cope the extreme harsh weather and this project has responded to the voice of the affected communities by providing them with what they required”. Naveed Ahmad, Tehsil Nazim Charbagh, District Swat

-  Earthquake Affected Areas
-  Community World Service Asia Target Areas
-  Provincial Boundaries

This Response has been Supported By:

DAMAGES STATISTICS				
Country	No. of Deaths	No. of Injuries	No. of Households Damaged	
			Partially	Completely
Pakistan	117	544	12,794	7,384
Afghanistan	280	1,770	79,822	29,228
Total	397	2,314	92,616	36,612



SHELTER

PAKISTAN		
No. of Families	1,987	
Quilts	7,948	
Cotton Mattresses	7,948	
Plastic Sheets	3,974	
Plastic Mats	3,974	

AFGHANISTAN

No. of Families	290
Blankets	1,160
Winter Jackets	1,160
Warm Socks	2,020
Warm Shawls for Children	1,160



HEALTH

PAKISTAN		
Total OPD	4,090	
Total number of Female OPD	2,271	
Total number of Male OPD	1,820	
Total Number of Diagnostics tests performed	1,033	

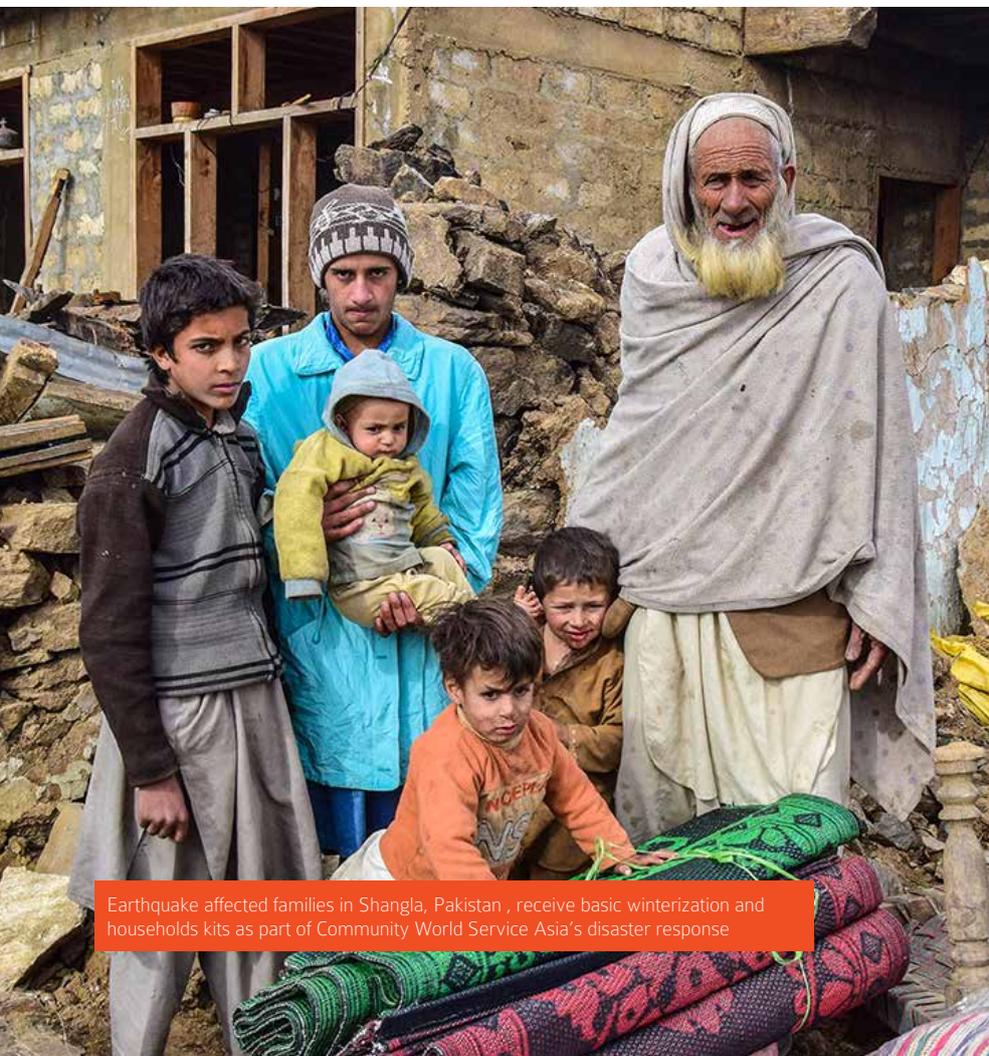
FOOD



PAKISTAN		
No. of Families	370	
Wheat Flour	29.68 MT	
Rice	9.28 MT	
Cooking Oil	2,968 Liters	
Pulses	4.45 MT	
Sugar	1.48 MT	
Tea Leaves	.15 MT	
Iodized Salt	.30 MT	
Match Boxes	3,710 Packets	



Students at school supported by one of our projects in Nangarhar, Afghanistan, engaged in interactive learning activities in class.



Earthquake affected families in Shangla, Pakistan, receive basic winterization and households kits as part of Community World Service Asia's disaster response





A student from one of the Community World Service Asia's Education project's participating schools in Afghanistan showing her learning and writing skills



MOU Signing Ceremony with COMSATS Institute of Information Technologies, Abbotabad



Basic Health Unit established by the Disaster Response team in northern Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Province in Pakistan for earthquake affected families



MOU being signed between Community World Service Asia and the Peshawar University under the Capacity Institutionalization Project

Trending



Building sustainable livelihoods 54 year old widow expands her small business through a cash grant

Munawar Jan, fifty eight year old widow, belongs to Aurakzai Agency, FATA. She lives in a village named Waziro Kalay, union council Jarma, district Kohat Kyber Pukhtunkhwa province in Pakistan. Due to the ongoing conflict in the area, her house was completely destroyed leaving her family and her homeless. Munawar Jan, thus, migrated to the nearest developed district in the province, where she now lives in a rented house.

One of the many widows affected by the conflict, Munawar Jan not only has to provide for herself but also for her twenty year old son who suffers from a kidney problem and is unable to work on daily wages. One of the poorest families in the village, she survives on the charity given by fellow community members. Living in a small shelter, financially supported by her brothers in law, Munawar Jan's days became difficult and devoid of hope.

Munawar Jan, who already owned a small shop selling basic utility items in her village, was nominated for a cash grant by the village committee. Being her only source of income, Munawar Jan wanted to expand her business through the cash grant received from Community World Service Asia. After successfully participating in a training on microenterprise, business management and bookkeeping, she received a cash grant of PKR 24000/.

The cash grant changed everything for Munawar Jan. She knew there was no similar shop in their village and that the demand would be high. Munawar Jan set up the shop in her home and used the grant to buy all the necessary items. Her shop's success is evident from the wide variety of goods available; detergent, ready-made garments for children, shampoo, women's fashion accessories, unstitched fabric, candies, chocolates, and chips.

At a turnover of PKR 300 per day on an average, she makes enough to bring a sufficient amount home. Her shop has quickly become the place of choice for shopping for other families in the

village and its surroundings. She keeps her customers loyal through a credit system, allowing them to pay later if necessary. She is now planning to buy a sewing machine to stitch children and women's clothes in the village for an additional income.

This Cash grant component was designed to provide financial assistance to vulnerable women heading households. Cash grants proved to be an efficient way to generate immediate improvements in the living conditions of under-privileged families especially of women headed households. The grants provide them with the crucial initial support required to develop sustainable livelihoods and meet their long-term goals while giving their families an opportunity to choose their preferred way of earning income.



Struggling to restore a normal life

"My children are exposed to cold weather now, I do not know what to do. There is no one to hear our voice. The earthquake struck at such bad timing. It is almost winter now, and the weather keeps getting cooler. I only had two rooms, my son and his wife were living in one while the other was for me, my wife and the rest of our children."

Faizullah, 46, said that he had requested the local government office in Faizabad, Badakshan, to help him arrange for a makeshift shelter or a tent to protect his children from the harsh winter but was offered no assistance.

"My neighbors helped me with providing my children with food but the main problem now is to find shelter. My house had two rooms, one of which is completely destroyed while the other has cracks and is risky to live in. I work as daily wage labourer in Faizabad, but these days I am not getting many opportunities to earn a daily wage because of the winter season. It is also hard to go to the city to find work, as I have to take care of my family as well as gradually start rebuilding my damaged house. However, I am not hopeful of rebuilding my house by the summers even since I do not have enough income to buy the construction material required to reconstruct the doors, windows and roof."

Faizullah is stressed with his current circumstances and currently lives in Nowabad (Sakhi Mardan) village of Faizabad in a damaged mud house with his wife, three daughters, sons and daughter-in-law.



Awareness-Raising Improves Health in Thatta

Rehana, 30, lives in village Ranta and has four children, three boys

and a girl. Her youngest son, Samiullah, was born last year at the Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) Center run by Community World Service Asia with support from the Church of Scotland.

She has also attended awareness sessions on breast-feeding conducted by the health team. "The health team advised me about proper breast-feeding and shared with me the importance of mother's milk for a newborn baby. I followed the information shared by the health team and breast-fed my baby for six months, then I again consulted with the doctor for supplementary feeding. He is healthier than the other three, and he has not had any health issues like fever or anemia."

Almost half of children in the Sindh province suffer from malnourishment, which can lead to stunted growth, and contributes to an estimated 35% of deaths among children under five (National Nutrition Survey, 2011 figures).

"I am really happy that my son is healthy and safe from diseases. I would suggest to every mother to breast-feed your baby immediately, since the first milk contains medicine which is Allah's gift for a newborn baby. A mother also needs health care during pregnancy and delivery. Going to a health facility is not shameful."



Providing medical aid in Flood Hit Thatta

Mir Hussain, a twelve year old resident of village Sher Muhammad Hallo in Thatta district encountered a foot injury while working in the agricultural fields. He accidentally injured himself with his crop cutting spade while at work. Mir Hussain's injured foot bled heavily and the pain he was suffering was excruciating.

"I could not see my son in pain and bleeding that much. I was very worried as my husband was at work at the time and there is no hospital near our village", expressed the worried mother of Mir Hussain. The mother was soon told about a Mobile health team that was present in the area, upon advice from fellow villagers and members of the Village Health committee, she immediately took her son to the Community World Service Asia Mobile Health team where Dr. Mujahid Ali Shah examined Mir Hussain's injury. Dr. Mujahid attended to his wounds immediately, first cleaning the wound and then stopping the bleeding by pressing it with a gauze bandage. When the bleeding ceased, the injury was properly dressed and Mir Hussain was given an antibiotic and pain killer for further relief. Mir Hussain's mother was instantly relieved of her worry and expressed gratitude to the doctor and the mobile health team.

Belonging to an underprivileged family, Mir Hussain shares a home with his eight siblings and parents. His father is a fisherman who goes fishing to the nearby lake on a daily basis. In the summer of 2015, their house and village was severely affected by the floods that hit parts of Sindh. "All the residents of our village were moved to safer areas when the flood was approaching. We were moved to embankments as well. No one has assisted the flood affected villages with medical aid since the floods hit us. Community World Service Asia is the only organization that came to our medical assistance. It will take us two to three months more to further settle back into our normal lives", narrated Mir Hussain's mother. The Health unit established by Community World Service Asia

in Thatta, has so far conducted 5,745 medical consultations. Two hundred and seventy Ante-Post Natal consultations have been delivered, while 148 hygiene sessions have been conducted. Two village health committees consisting of twenty four members have also been formed under the current project.



Opportunity brings Change in Umerkot

Hajra belongs to Village Charar in Umerkot, where Community World Service Asia, with support from UK Aid and YCare International, is working to provide women with literacy skills and vocational training in traditional handicraft design and production. She is 38 and has three children, two boys and a girl. Her husband works as a laborer, and has an unstable income. On days where he is able to find work, he earns around PKR 300 (USD 2.86). Hajra and her daughter also do some embroidery work to support the family. "We earn PKR 4,000 to 5,000 (USD 38 to 48) each month, most of which I spend on my education. The rest is used in household spending."

Even with such constraints and uncertainty surrounding her family's income, Hajra is committed to the education of her children. "My children are pursuing their education. One of my sons, and my daughter, completed twelfth grade, and one son is in matric [tenth grade]."

The family has experienced financial hardship, which deeply affected them. Hajra remembers when her youngest child was born, and the family was reliant on support from relatives to meet their basic costs.

"We appreciate that this organization is working here to empower the women so that they can make our living standard better. There is lack of employment opportunities here, so I feel through this skill we can generate income. Even if our children are educated, due to the lack of employment opportunity, they learn these skills to have an income." For Hajra, whose husband relies on a source of income which is often unreliable, her participation in the project is a unique opportunity to improve her family's standard of living. "My husband is happy to see me working and support him to manage our household expenses. He encourages me."

The project aims to improve the income of poor and vulnerable households by empowering rural women through improved skills and connections to the market. Like Community World Service Asia, Hajra is thinking about how this project will help her and her family in the long term. "The extra income we can spend on our children's brighter future," she shares.

We will continue to work with women like Hajra to build opportunities, combat poverty and empower the vulnerable and marginalized.

Introduction to NGOs Training in O'Spring Murree 19-22 October, 2015

A workshop on "Introduction to NGOs" was held from 19th to 22nd October, 2015 at O'Spring Estate Murree, which was designed to enhance the knowledge of interested aid workers on the basic tools and techniques required to operate in the aid sector. We interviewed three of the participants who shared their views about the training.

Mahwish Rehan is a Program Coordinator in Social Development

Organization (SDO). Based in Sahiwal Punjab their focus is on education and health, by enrolling students in schools. They are also working against child labor, setting up health camps and involving concerned doctors, and setting up special camps for children in schools as well. Seasonal changes and awareness regarding health and hygiene is ensured in these camps, in addition to trying to arrange medicines for the needy.

Saira Basharat is a MBA graduate working as a HR Executive for Community Support Concern for the last three years. Her organization's main focus is on Micro Credit, which are basically small loans that are given to females in regions of Lahore, Sheikhpura, and Southern Punjab to empower them. They also work on other issues related to maternal and child health, education, and over all women empowerment through smaller projects.

Samson Gill works as a Program Program Coordinator - Water sanitation, health and environment in Sewwa Pak District Mirpur Khas, Sindh. It is a Tear Fund UK funded project that is working in 30 villages, chiefly on education, health, water, and environment. Sewwa Pak work through soft components such as trainings, primary health care sessions, DRR based assistance, VMS awareness, and certain hard components like FES, tree plantation, and building hand pumps.

1. What was most new to you? What is the one thing you are sure to take back from this training?

According to Mahwish, the background of NGOs is not a new concept but learning more about the two components of a project, namely the program and support, was very insightful. This has helped her understand the problems both components face, which we never considered previously. She has realized that all departments in an organization are important. Only a synergetic effort between the two components can help run the project in efficient and effective manner.

Saira added, "Since most of us here from CSC are operations, HR or finance staff, it was an eye opener for us to find out how program side works, and what troubles the field staff actually go through. Where we thought we had the toughest jobs, now we realize that the real humanitarian work obviously in the field rather than a desk, and we being support team are isolated from that completely. I'm glad that from this training we got better information about that." To Samson the newest concept for him was learning about Community World Service Asia's history. In all his nineteen years of having been in collaboration with Community World Service Asia, it was during this training, through the introductory video, that he found out about the actual hard work of Community World Service Asia, about all of its struggles through time and history.

2. The most memorable moment of the training for you?

For Mahwish fun night was the most memorable moment from the training. "It was an amazing experience where we all got to bond and get to know each other in a friendly way, rather than a formal way, and so was the trek. It was difficult, and I didn't think I could do it, but I'm glad I went and was able to complete the trek with the help of the trainers and fellow participants."

Whereas Saira liked the Group based activities which were both fun and information or session based were very memorable, the warm ups were enjoyable but always had a deeper meaning; this was a highly exciting factor. She too turned out to be a fan of the fun night; where she and her colleagues performed a play for all participants. For her it was unbelievable fun to perform such a spontaneous show and making everyone laugh, along with ourselves.

Samson on the other hand liked the outdoor activities like trekking in the wonderful, and to participate in role play as "Donors, NGOs and community," which were most memorable for him. "It was a fun activity and a great learning experience at the same time. Morning refreshers were also a good way of waking us up, and revising the past day in a light manner. For instance, today on the last day, the trainers asked us to make a train travel around the estate to revisit the activities and topics covered over the past 2 days. It

may have seemed silly to the younger participants, but for me, it took me back to childhood, all the while allowing me to refresh my concepts." he adds.

Samson, Saira and Mahwish plan to transfer the knowledge and information of this training on to their own staff in their respective offices, by conducting their own training sessions to inform them of what they have learned here. They will further try to adopt the aspects that were relevant to their projects, to improve our program's overall performance.



Equality for all - Increasing awareness on the Right to Information law

Over the past decade, Community World Service Asia has been working for strengthening democracy in Pakistan and helping the marginalized groups of our society to actively participate in mainstream political and governance systems. Currently, Community World Service Asia is implementing a project titled 'Social and Political Equality for Religious Minorities' in Pakistan through which it aims to promote equal social and political rights for the religious minorities of Pakistan. This is done through capacity development initiatives undertaken in the course of the project and through consistent engagement of non-Muslim community leaders and their representative members of Parliament (MPs) in political decision making processes.

One of the key components of this project is to train the National Lobbying Delegation (NLD) members and minority community leaders (MCLs) on the basic understanding of governance and politics and the use of Right to Information Law (RTI Law).

The National Lobbying Delegation (NLD) for Minority Rights is a one-of-its kind initiative launched by Community World Service Asia in 2012 to improve democratization and governance in order to secure the democratic rights for non-Muslims in Pakistan. The delegation members originating from across the country, are authors, journalists, lawyers and activists, representing various minority faith groups. They are well connected with their communities and policy formulators. Every NLD member has three to four MCLs associated with them to support the overall process of lobbying and their efforts to promote and protect the rights of religious minorities. These ninety-six MCLs belong to different fields of life and are actively engaged in social development activities within their communities.

A series of six two-day workshops were conducted in the last quarter of 2015 where twenty five NLD Members and ninety six MCLs were trained on the usefulness of an emerging tool, known as the RTI law, introduced by the government. The training also focused on educating the participants on electoral systems in the country with special reference to religious minorities. Various case studies were shared with the participants to shed more light on the subject under discussion. The training incorporated practical exercises and group activities for the participants to fully comprehend the RTI law.

The Right to Information has recently been added as a fundamental right in the Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment. Recognized as one of the most significant rights, this right will not only ensure participatory democracy but also enable citizens to hold their govern-

ment accountable. It also enables citizens to know their rights and thus allows them to objectively evaluate the performance of their government. Fundamental rights are the basic rights of citizens and most of the rights as prescribed under the Constitution have been part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948. According to the Constitution of Pakistan, all citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law. The right to information is therefore critical to the process of strengthening good governance, accountability and transparency.

The trainings conducted under this project were aimed at putting the RTI law to good use, thus training NLD Members and MCLs on the procedures of filing it.

This transparent and detailed process of filing the RTI in itself is an indication that the government of Pakistan is making efforts to make legal systems fair and promoting equality and accountability for all. The RTI law, thus, is a critical step towards the right direction which has not only empowered the nation with their constitutional right but will also lead to a decline in corruption and an increase in accountability.

By the end of the trainings, the participants not only understood the processes but also shared their views on their learning and made a commitment to utilize the RTI Law in accessing vital information as and when required.

"I have a school which is not registered and I cannot find a way for the process of registration. This training helped me find a way for that through the use of right to information law." Kamal Kumar, Quetta.

"I am a retired civil engineer and although I know the ways in which government departments process files of development work, this training equipped me with the information about sequencing those ways which I never knew of before." Engr. Nathu Ram Maheshwari, Hyderabad.

"This training gave me a complete understanding on the use of right to information law. The success stories shared by resource persons gave me confidence that if there is a will, there is a way to solve problems." Advocate Hansraj Naurang, Hyderabad.



Promoting Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) in Pakistan, Afghanistan & the Asia-Pacific Region

The Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) Alliance, a new over-arching body for mainstreaming quality and accountability standards launched this year, aims to bring about more responsibility for organizations and individuals who are involved in humanitarian and development assistance. The CHS has combined three separate initiatives; Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP), People in Aid and the Sphere Project, after months of consultations with all relevant stakeholders.

Community World Service Asia, under its role in promoting quality and accountability (Q & A) in Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Asia Pacific region, participated in one of the first training of Trainers on CHS. The training held in Nairobi, Kenya, was attended by core staff members of the organization's Q&A program. Following the Training of Trainers (ToT), the trained staff carried out an in-house writing

workshop on CHS for the rest of the Q&A program staff. The trainers further carried out the following activities to bring awareness to organizations on CHS not only in Pakistan but also in Afghanistan and the Asia Pacific region;

Technical Assistance on CHS to Dan Church Aid/Christian Aid in Cambodia

Community World Service Asia facilitated a three-day training in September for DanChurchAid / Christian Aid (DCA/CA) and their partners working in Cambodia in order to familiarize them with CHS and its implementation on the ground. The training was held in Phnom Penh and was attended by twenty six participants (13 Men and 13 Women). The use of CHS for development and rights based organization was explored. One of the common action points amongst the attendees was to initiate, revise and strengthen their Complaint Response Mechanism. DCA/CA will continue to provide support to the partners in this regard.

The training was tailor-made to take into consideration the application of CHS in the Cambodian cultural context as well as its relevance when working in partnership. The translated version of CHS in Khmer (Cambodian Language) is also available and participants are using CHS translated version for better implementation of CHS in programs.

Two Open Call Training on CHS in Kabul, Afghanistan

Based on the learning need assessment carried out in September 2015, Community World Service Asia has conducted two open call trainings on using CHS throughout Project Cycle Management in October and December in which forty five participants (40 Men and 5 Women) from ten different local, national and international organizations were trained. The main objective of these trainings was to ensure the inclusion of CHS at all stages of project cycle management. Group activities as well as examples were shared with the participants to help them contextualize material and case studies thus making the training more effective.

Mainstreaming CHS within Community World Service Asia programs in Pakistan & Afghanistan

Being the focal organization of Q&A in the region, Community World Service Asia not only preaches but also practices what is being taught to others. Keeping in view the importance of CHS, Community World Service Asia has started mainstreaming CHS in policies, procedures and practices. As a first step, capacity building of staff has been initiated along with bringing awareness to the staff about CHS and its inclusion in their project activities. Learning need assessment was carried out initially so that need based and project specific CHS orientations should be conducted. Afterwards, revision of policies and procedures will take place through CHS lens.

1. Translation of CHS Materials

The CHS materials serve as an important guide for I/NGOs operating in Pakistan and Afghanistan primarily to satisfy the need of standardizing policies and procedures that are committed to including, delivering and improving accountability processes and interventions to affected population. Keeping in view its importance and need, Community World Service Asia developed the context specific training materials and also translated the CHS handbook and posters in local language, so that the field workers can also easily understand and implement it in their field work. The Urdu version is currently available whereas the Dari version will be available soon.

Advocacy on CHS with ALWG in Pakistan

Through the Accountability Learning Working Group (ALWG) platform, Community World Service Asia recently organized a brief orientation on CHS. Around ten national and international organizations including UN agencies participated in the event. The main purpose of this brief orientation was to help bring awareness to organizations on newly developed initiatives and to chalk out their future plans regarding implementation of CHS. During the meeting, CHS self-assessment tool was shared with the organizations so that they get can identify areas in which there is a need for improving their policies, procedures and practices as per CHS commitments. The participating organizations agreed to carry out self-assessment internally, afterwards a support required from Community World Service Asia will be shared.

QUALITY AND EQUALITY IN EDUCATION



Girls in Behsod district face many challenges in obtaining a quality education:

- o Lack of community and parental support for girls' education
- o Lack of well-trained teachers
- o Lack of female teachers
- o Poverty
- o Poor, unsafe and unsanitary school facilities



Community World Service Asia, with support from JPF, PWS&D and Act for Peace are working to address these issues and support girls in the area to realize their right to education.

- o Subject-based and classroom management training for teachers
- o Improve the quality and effectiveness of teaching
- o Awareness-raising sessions in the community
- o Increase support for girls' education from parents and the wider community
- o Distribution of school supplies
- o Alleviate the financial burden of enrolment for poor households

A Glimpse into the Classroom

Classroom Management Training



Two trainings
Five days



31 Women



19 Men

50 participants

Facilitated by Nazakat, Ismail, Ms. Lubna and Ms. Shukria, as Community World Service Asia works to build its internal capacity by sharing expertise with colleagues and developing a base of skilled trainers.



The training introduced participants to the use of classroom management skills as a tool to create a child-friendly classroom environment which will support effective learning.

- o Development of low and no cost teaching materials
- o Using morning meetings to develop social and emotional skills, attitudes and values among students
- o The role of a teacher, and the impact of positive or negative behavior on the learning environment
- o Planning skills, and how to plan on an annual, monthly, weekly and daily basis for effective learning



Training methodology:

- o Group work
- o Individual exercises
- o Brainstorming
- o Lectures
- o Interactive discussion
- o Presentations
- o Sharing of supportive materials

Sohela
Teacher at
Nahid e Shahid
Girls' High School

"I would like to do this type of training again, because I have gained and learnt more to help me work as a teacher. It was such a great learning about class room management."

Rehman Allah
Teacher at
Qila Mirza School

"I went back to my school and conducted morning meeting with my class. The children were smiling when I conducted morning meeting. I am 100% happy from this training and would like to suggest more training. I was excited and I enjoyed until the end."

Bughdad Armani
M&E Member
Education Department

"I have conducted and attended so many trainings, but all was new in this training. I liked the most the session on the role of teachers, because in our context, the majority of the teachers have negative roles. This was good to know how their behaviors turn into positive and negative consciously and unconsciously, and how they can spin their roles into positives with small efforts: body language, tone, and third how they appreciate practically and this is very relevant to my job as Monitoring and Evaluation member. I will introduce group work to other teachers. I feel there is no challenge in implementation of this training."

Gulali Jamalvi
Grade 5-6 Teacher
Malka Suria School

"During my whole career of 28 years, I have attended so many trainings, but I never learnt so much as I learnt from this one training. The most important thing was that I never felt bored or disinterested at a single moment during the training. I learnt with enjoyment and I felt great. I came daily with high motivation from my heart. I observe a big difference between trainings here. I will apply morning meeting with children first of all. I am 100% satisfied. All learnt with enjoyment and a smile."

Mushfaquallah
Head Teacher at
Zingoe School

"I liked the training very much because I learnt all the concepts with practical work. The facilitators had a good command on the subjects. I will go back and train my teachers, so that they can teach practically to young students. Nothing is impossible, we can implement all, except materials."

Ghorzang Samin
Teacher at Camp Farm
Hadda School

"I liked the morning meeting idea because children will learn many things through this activity. The main difference between other trainings is that, in those trainings, only the trainer would speak. We kept quiet and did not learn anything. I will go and do first of all morning meeting with my class."

Divya Nabi Zada
Teacher at
Malkah Suriya School

"I learnt by doing, especially making schedule and news announcement chart, because we never learnt this before. Now, with this skill, I can teach better. I felt a huge difference between others trainings and Community World Service Asia trainings. I did not understand anything in those trainings due to lectures only. I will do first of all morning meeting with children right away. Our trainers were excellent, they taught us well."

Trivia



1. Preventing violence against women and girls means;
- Stopping it before it happens
 - Stopping its reoccurrence
 - Providing protection through laws, policies, care and support services
 - We need to take all the steps above

2. Over the past decade, which country has proved the world's deadliest country for aid workers?
- Syria
 - Somalia
 - Afghanistan
 - South Sudan

3. What is the most popular Social Media medium for non-profit organizations?
- YouTube
 - Twitter
 - Instagram
 - Facebook

4. Who is directly responsible for meeting annual fundraising goals in a non-profit organization (i.e. raising a certain amount of money in a year)?
- Communications Staff
 - Executive Directors
 - Development Staff
 - Supporting Teams

5. In September 2015, world leaders adopted the sustainable development goals – a 15-year plan to tackle poverty, inequality and climate change. Which agenda did it replace?
- Millennium development goals
 - Zero poverty goals
 - Global equality goals
 - Green planet agenda

6. Last year how many people have died in the worst Ebola epidemic?
- 14,000
 - 11,300
 - More than 15,000
 - 22,000

7. 7.8-magnitude quake in Nepal killed how many people in the country's deadliest disaster on record?
- More than 8,800
 - Less than 4,000
 - More than a million
 - Less than 5,500

8. IS has systematically killed, captured and enslaved thousands of people from which religious sect in what the United Nations has said may constitute attempted genocide
- Yazidi
 - Shias
 - Christians
 - Wahabi

9. How many migrants entered Europe by land and sea last year (many of them refugees from Syria)?
- More than 2 million
 - Less than 6 million
 - Around 1 million
 - More than 4 million

10. How many refugees and migrants have died at sea last year while trying to reach Europe?
- Less than 200
 - 3,600
 - More than 5500
 - 7,000

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



Muhammad Yunus (1940 – 2013)

He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing economic and social opportunities for the poor, especially women, through their pioneering microcredit work.

“Poverty is the absence of all human rights. The frustrations, hostility and anger generated by abject poverty cannot sustain peace in any society.”

Memberships



Certifications



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