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AKDN

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Summer Newsletter: *Pakistan edition*



Princess Zahra and Prince Rahim inaugurate the Aga Khan Medical Centre, Gilgit

24 May 2016: Princess Zahra Aga Khan and Prince Rahim Aga Khan inaugurated the Aga Khan Medical Centre, Gilgit (AKMC,G). Aga Khan Medical Centre, Gilgit is now a 50-bed Comprehensive Health Care Center and acts as a “hub” and provides high quality diagnostics and secondary health care as well as some tertiary health care. “Spokes” that radiate out from the Centre will connect the Gilgit hub through a digital health network to clinics in Singal, Chatorkhand, Aliabad, Soust, Booni and Garamchasma. This hub and spoke model will provide

quality affordable health care. AKMC,G is also connected to the state-of-the art medical resources in other parts of Pakistan and in other countries, including the Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi.

The “hubs and spokes” model is intended to ensure that essential healthcare is accessible to all throughout Pakistan. Since the opening of the Aga Khan University School of Nursing in 1983, agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network have been involved in a number of activities along the entire health spectrum, from training nurses, doctors and other health professionals to providing care in underserved areas, both in the South and in the North.



Princess Zahra and Prince Rahim interacting with the medical staff in AKMC, Gilgit

AKDN's research into the burden of local diseases and health system design has been concentrated in Sindh, but research “spokes” have been extended throughout the country. The Aga Khan Medical Centre, Gilgit started its operations as Basic Health Center in 1974 in a rented building, gradually upgrading its services after a long journey. The AKMC,G building was retrofitted and preserved and new blocks were added with financial support of Habib Bank Limited Foundation. AKMC,G is providing quality healthcare to approximately more than 400 thousand people from diverse socio economic backgrounds. It provides round the clock emergency services, and has general and private rooms, labour and delivery rooms, operation and recovery section. The centre provides inpatient and outpatient services for obstetrics & gynecology, pediatrics, internal medicine, general & orthopedic surgery, psychiatric and dental services with support of a 24 hours pharmacy and a wide range of clinical laboratory, endoscopy and radiology etc. All these areas are well equipped to meet the requirement of a modern community based hospital with the financial support of KfW and Government of Canada.

Princess Zahra Aga Khan and Prince Rahim Aga Khan also visited the Model High School in Rahimabad. Rahimabad School is one of the 106 Aga Khan Schools in Gilgit-Baltistan that serve more than 23,000 children in the region. Recently a pre-primary classroom and a multi-purpose hall reflecting its commitment to early childhood education has also been added to the school building. In the pre-primary classes, Princess Zahra engaged with the students, asking them various questions, and learning about teaching practices. Princess Zahra and Prince Rahim also paid a visit to the Aga Khan University's Professional Development Centre, North (PDCN). PDCN works with over 146 private and public schools serving over 76,000 students in the region to improve the quality of instruction, management and administration. Over 15,000 teachers,

head teachers, education managers and district supervisory staff have benefitted, of which more than half are women.

Conservation of a jewel of Mughal heritage in Lahore reaches completion

30 June 2016: Built in 1634-35, by Hakim Aliuddin in the reign of Shah Jehan, the Wazir Khan Mosque complex was a primary central element of the Walled City, and included the mosque itself, the chowk (an introductory urban space) a row of shops (hujras) integrated in the entrance system meant specifically for calligraphers and bookbinders, and additional shops on the Eastern and Northern Façades built into the body of the monument. The profuse architectural decorations that embellish its exterior and interior surfaces, most predominantly its kashikari (glazed-tile mosaic work), are the primary outstanding attributes that place the mosque in the frontline of the major monuments of the world. In September 2014, the Aga Khan Cultural Service - Pakistan (AKCS-P) began the documentation, conservation and rehabilitation of the 75x8m Northern Façade of the Wazir Khan Mosque, with financial support from the Royal Norwegian Embassy and Aga Khan Trust for Culture, and facilitated by the Walled City of Lahore Authority.



Northern Façade of Wazir Khan Mosque after conservation

A comprehensive documentation of the Mosque was carried out and published in 2012 by a technical team of conservation architects and engineers from AKCS-P, to determine the range of problems and issues faced by the Mosque. As efforts to secure funds for the conservation of the entire Mosque were bound to take time, a practical approach was adopted to initiate the rehabilitation of the Northern Façade, as the encroachments and 8 feet of cultural fill had defaced and weakened the foundations of the Mosque and were threatening its stability. Phase I of the project involved the removal of encroachments and dense overhead cables and Phase II involved the detailed documentation of the Façade, the structural consolidation of the excavated hujras, conservation of the architectural embellishments including cut-and-dressed brickwork, carved brickwork, brick imitation work, and restoration of terracotta screens, woodwork and missing masonry elements.

The rehabilitation of the Northern Façade and the adaptive reuse of its hujras for the sale of traditional handicrafts will highlight the rich Mughal heritage of the Wazir Khan Mosque in the Walled City of Lahore, and will form a template for the conservation of the entire mosque when the latter is put into effect. The AKCS-P team working on the Northern Façade is headed by Manager Conservation Shukurullah Baig, and includes architects Rashid Makhdum (consultant), Naheed Iftikhar, Mehwish Bandealy, Kashif Essa, Usama Farooq, and engineers Amna Jabeen and Haider Ali. Work on the Façade was completed on 30th June 2016.

AKU tobacco research uncovers an unexpected reality

21 June 2016: Smoking and chewing tobacco are habits often identified with men and statistics back up the perception. The Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2012-2013 found that nearly half the men in the country use tobacco products compared to just 6 per cent of women. However, research from the Aga Khan University has uncovered an interesting pattern of tobacco consumption among women from low income communities. Every day, two out of three women in Orangi town in Karachi smoke or chew tobacco products such as paan and gutka (betel leaf and areca nut). This is concerning since regular use of chewable tobacco products can cause oral cancer. As one of the researchers, AKU's Dr. Nousheen Iqbal, says: "The presence of carcinogens in



Elderly woman unable to quit her smoking habit

such tobacco products can result in lesions and diseases such as oral fibrosis which can make even the simple act of opening your mouth very difficult. What we have begun to see is a rise in such cases in women." The study's authors describe the use of smokeless tobacco among women as being "very high" and "alarming" and recommend treating chewable tobacco with the same importance as cigarettes. "We need to print pictorial warnings on chewing tobacco packets, similar to cigarette packets, to effectively spread awareness about its health risks," said Dr. Iqbal. The study also found that 86 per cent of women said that they had tried to quit smoking over the past year but could not kick the habit. Dr. Javaid Khan, Professor of Medicine at Aga Khan University explains that women need different strategies to quit using smokeless tobacco. According to him, "many smokers are addicted to tobacco but fail to admit this fact. People, particularly women, who smoke are very conscious about how they look and quitting smoking is connected with weight gain. So we need to find messages that point out the health effects on women and strategies to help them with their withdrawal stress."

Ambassadors visit AKDN programme areas in Gilgit-Baltistan: Leif Larson Music Centre Inaugurated

26 May 2016: Ambassador of France, H.E. Mr. Jean-François Cautain, Ambassador of Switzerland, H.E. Mr. Marc P. George, Ambassador of Norway, H.E. Mr. Tore Nedrebo and Acting

High Commissioner of Canada, H.E. Mr. Andrew Turner arrived in Gilgit-Baltistan along with Mr. Salman Beg, CEO, Aga Khan Cultural Service, Pakistan (AKCS,P), Mr. Nawab Ali Khan CEO, Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan, Ms. Nusrat Nasab, EO, FOCUS Pakistan, Mr. Irshad Khan Abbasi, Director RD AKF (Pak) and Dr. Jamila Razzaq, Advisor Education, AKF (Pak) on 26 May 2016 for a three day visit to AKDN programme sites. Ambassador of Norway H.E. Mr. Tore Nedrebo inaugurated the Leif Larsen Music Centre, built by Ciqam women using Poplar, a local tree that has been used in the area for centuries. This Music Centre was completed by the generous support of Norwegian Embassy (RNE) and named after the late Norwegian Ambassador Mr. Leif Larsen.



H.E. Mr. Tore Nedrebo unveiling the plaque

The delegates also visited and were briefed about Professional Development Centre North (PDCN), the Aga Khan Medical Centre, Gilgit, Shinaki Local Support Organisation and Women Social Enterprise Project (CIQAM). Later that day Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Search and Rescue Teams (SART) of FOCUS did a joint simulation for the delegation. The delegates also met and interacted with youth trained by Karakoram Development Organisation (KADO) facilitated by Enhancing Employability and Leadership For Youth (EELY) project of AKRSP funded by the Canadian government. On the second day the delegates visited various interventions of the USAID funded Satpara Development Project (SDP) Skardu including green house, packaging centre managed by women processing group and interacted with women beneficiaries. The mission also



Ambassadors in Skardu being briefed about Satpara Development Project activities

visited the tertiary irrigation system where they interacted with Water User Associations (WUAs). In the second half of the day the delegates paid visit to Abruzzi School, Jamia Mosque and link road constructed through Deepening Participatory Governance (EU-DPG) Project funded by EU.

On the third day delegates interacted with a group of youth trained in various skills under the EELY project and they also paid a visit to old Khanqa which is under construction with technical support from AKCS-P. The mission also visited Water Supply Scheme Zulfiqarabad, Gilgit constructed by Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan (AKPBS, P) and interacted with students at DG Higher Secondary School in Gilgit. During this visit the communities highlighted the development work and thanked the Ambassadors for the support they have provided towards the development of the region.

Preparing communities to mitigate the impact of climate change and natural disasters in Pakistan

30 June 2016: “My family almost escaped death as our home was destroyed due to floods. We are so glad that our institutions came to help us in these difficult times”, explained the owner of a shelter that was constructed by AKPBS,P in response to the flash floods and earthquake in Chitral and parts of Gilgit-Baltistan in 2015. The role of AKPBS,P has become more critical in recent years since natural disasters as a result of climate change have impacted the social fabric of societies by threatening human lives and the public and private infrastructure. This has raised two critical challenges for all AKDN agencies: how do we prepare communities to mitigate the impact of natural disasters; and how do we ensure that communities are able to withstand disasters without completely compromising their standard of living. Playing its role to address these concerns, AKPBS,P has constructed over 700 shelters for flood and earthquake affected families in Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan in the last year.



Link road constructed in village Khair Muhammad Dars

However, AKPBS,P believes that merely responding to natural disasters is not enough. It is imperative to address the root cause of the problem through effective, community-centric disaster mitigation measures which increases the coping capacities of vulnerable communities across Pakistan against future disasters.

A notable stride towards achieving this goal is AKPBS,P's public-private partnership with the Government of Sindh under which AKPBS,P is constructing mitigation infrastructure schemes in 55 villages in Sindh, along with building capacity of local community organisation to prepare against the impacts of natural disasters in the region. By involving key stakeholders including the government and civil society organisations, it is expected that AKPBS,P's successful models of adapting and responding to natural disasters can be replicated to ensure resilient built environments across Pakistan.

170,200 plants grown under the Billion Tsunami Afforestation Project of KPK Government

10 April 2016: A total of 170,200 plants have been grown in nurseries established by eight different Local Support Organisations (LSOs) in Tehsil Mastuj and 149 nurseries have been established in Tehsil Chitral by seven LSOs under the Billion Tsunami Afforestation Project of KPK Government. AKF, Pakistan facilitated an MoU signing between AKRSP and KPK Forestry, Environment and Wildlife earlier this year. According to the MOU, the partners will cooperate to improve and strengthen: the community based joint forest management through involvement of Village Organisations (VOs), Women Organisations (WOs) and Local Support Organisations (LSOs); social forestry extension; conservation and improvement of ecology and natural habitats; geographical and management information systems of natural resources. The MoU

was signed by Programme Manager AKRSP, Mr. Sherzad Ali Khan as an implementing partner and Secretary of the relevant KPK department. Chairman PTI, Mr. Imran Khan, Special Assistant to Chief Minister, Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, Director IUCN Asia Region, Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Director RD-AKF, Pakistan Mr. Irshad Khan Abbasi and dignitaries from Federal and Provincial Government were also present on the occasion.



Plantation site in Yarkhoon Valley, Chitral

With involvement of communities through LSOs, forest tree plantation is ongoing on the river bed site of Pawoor (as one of the 1000 enclosures in Chitral). A total of 37 hectares of land will be covered under the river bed plantation intervention and 33,000 forest plants will be planted during the process. Secretary Forest and Wildlife KPK, dignitaries and other officials from the KPK Forest Department have recently visited Yarkoon valley in Chitral and seen plantation sites at Pawoor. They have appreciated efforts of LSOs and AKRSP Chitral for the successful implementation of this mega project.

Serena Hotels extend their generous support to the flood and earthquake affected communities

12 May 2016: The Serena Hotels, under the banner of its Social Environmental and Educational Development Programme (SEED) completed an extensive flood relief campaign, 'Spirit of Compassion' to support the flood-affected communities by contributing double the amount collected from guests at the rate of 5% on the amount of their restaurant bills. The campaign ran from April 08 to May 12 across all Serena Hotels in Pakistan. The total funds collected under the campaign were Rs. 6,769,167 of which Rs.



Shelters ready for use in Brep, Chitral

3,769,167 were donated to the National Disaster Management Authority and Rs. 3,000,000 were donated to Focus Pakistan. Both the organisations appreciated the efforts of Serena Hotels for this worthy cause. FOCUS in collaboration with Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan has already constructed 6 shelters for flood affected families and will construct 7 shelters for earthquake affected families. One of the community member from Brep, Chitral while sharing his views said, "since we lost our houses we had no idea what to do. The shelters are of great help and have been a safe and secure place for our families."

The First MicroFinanceBank Ltd Pakistan shines at the 10th Citi-PPAF Microentrepreneurship Awards

13 April 2016: Five clients supported by The First MicroFinanceBank Ltd Pakistan (FMFB-P) won awards for the success of their innovative entrepreneurial ventures at the 10th Citi/PPAF Microentrepreneurship Awards (CMA) hosted by the Citi Foundation and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund in Islamabad on 13 April 2016. FMFB-P bagged the first and runner-up positions both at the national and regional levels and won the most number of awards at the event. National entrepreneur first position was given to Habibullah from Chitral Region. National entrepreneur runner-up award was given to Ali from Baltistan Region. Regional entrepreneur (KPK) first position was given to Aisha Nusrat from Chitral Region. Regional entrepreneur (GB) first position was given to Bibi and regional entrepreneur (GB) runner-up was given to Marina. Awards were also given to the loan officers including Shujaat Ali, Zahira Husain, Ahmed Hussain and Najma Ashraf. The



CEO FMFB-P Mr. Amir Masood Khan with the successful entrepreneurs and the loan officers

CMA is held every year to illustrate and promote the effective role that microfinance plays in poverty alleviation. It recognises the extraordinary contributions that individual microentrepreneurs have made to the economic sustainability of their families as well as to their communities. FMFB-P has been winning the microentrepreneurship awards since the inception of CMA in 2005. Till date, FMFB-P has 15 awards in national and regional categories to its credit as a result of the innovative approaches adopted by clients to alleviate poverty within their communities and improve their quality of life.

AKES,P upgrades 18 schools, enhances access to education in Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral

1 April 2016: Earlier this year, Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan (AKES,P) upgraded 18 schools in all three of the regions it operates in, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Chitral and Southern Pakistan, increasing the enrolment in its schools by 2,109 and the teaching staff by 108. Ten of these upgraded schools are in GB, six are in Chitral, and two are in South. The upgrades are a part of providing continuity of education for AKES,P students. In total, nine schools have been upgraded from the middle to high, seven schools have been upgraded from primary to middle, one from primary to high, and one from high to higher secondary. AKES,P aims to constantly enhance access of primary constituencies to quality education, and is working towards this goal by providing a quality-driven, efficient and logical school system that provides transition opportunities to at least 50% students from pre-primary to the higher secondary level. The upgraded sections, prior to coming under AKES,P's management, were being run as Community-Based Schools. While the CBSs provide valuable educational services, their

resources are often constrained and as a result, their teaching staff untrained and badly paid. This is the reason why, in all of these 18 cases of upgrades, the communities aspired to convert their schools into full-fledge AKES,P schools to ensure quality education for their children. In addition to taking over classes from the CBSs, new pre-primary classes have also been initiated in some of these schools. Due to the geographical spread and tough mountainous terrain, two schools in Chitral have also started satellite campuses that are providing pre-primary classes to children too young to travel long distances.



Students at Aga Khan School, Hyderabad, one of the 18 schools upgraded this year

Government of Gilgit-Baltistan Launches Sehat Hifazat Health Protection Programme, Gilgit

3 June 2016: Chief Minister Hafiz Hafeez-ur-Rehman formally launched the Sehat Hifazat Programme, a social health protection scheme for Gilgit-Baltistan, in a ceremony held at the Gilgit Serena Hotel. Under the scheme, “the population of Gilgit-Baltistan will be insured for hospitalisation through payment of a nominal annual premium of Rs. 1700 per family of seven members equating to Rs. 243 per person per year. The premium of the poorest 21% households of Gilgit District will be paid by the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan out of the programme funds and KfW. The benefits will be up to a maximum of Rs. 25,000 per person per annum. This scheme shall provide cashless facilities at empaneled hospitals and each household will be issued a Sehat Hifazat Card for identification purpose” said Sohail Fakher, Group Head of Jubilee Life Insurance. The ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan, H.E. Ms. Ina Lepel, First Secretary, German Embassy, Mr. Almut Knop, Director KfW, Mr. Wolfgang Moellers, Project Coordinator KfW, Dr. Masuma Zaidi, Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan, Mr. Tahir Hussain, Secretary Health & Population Welfare Gilgit-Baltistan, Mr. Raja Rasheed Aly, other high officials of Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, Oxford Policy Management (OPM) and other community based organisations. The German Government, through KfW Development Bank, is providing the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan EUR 1 million (PKR 115 Million) for this scheme. Through a competitive bidding process, the project was awarded by the Department of Health GB to an AKDN consortium comprising of Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan, Jubilee Life Insurance, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme and Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan. The launching ceremony was concluded with a vote of thanks by Secretary Health and Population Welfare, Raja Rasheed Aly.



Chief Minister GB and Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan distributing cards among the beneficiaries

FOCUS seminar emphasises the need to build synergies among Disaster Risk Reduction actors

2 June 2016: A Knowledge Dissemination Seminar was organised by FOCUS Pakistan in collaboration with Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan under the project of Strengthening Institutional and Community Resiliency in the Hazardous Areas of Pakistan with financial support of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His Excellency Mr. Tore Nederbo Ambassador of Norway was the Chief Guest in the Seminar. First Secretary Royal Norwegian Embassy Mr. Tom Jørgen Martinussen was also present on the occasion. The members of communities and institutions in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral narrated FOCUS training experiences and how the learning of skills and coordination among DRR actors were beneficial for the affected communities after the massive disasters, floods and earthquakes, of 2015 and 2016. Way forward was highlighted for reducing human vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. H.E. Tore Nederbo emphasised on building more synergies and coordination among DRR actors, government authorities and donors.



H.E. Mr. Tore Nederbo, Ambassador of Norway interacting with Search and Rescue Team members of FOCUS

Dear Readers,

Thank you for your contributions to the Summer Volume. We are grateful for your timely response and the creative articles, stories and photos that you have shared. The purpose of this newsletter is to let the staff in Pakistan know about the wonderful work AKDN is doing. We would like to thank all the CEOs for their support and especially Muhammad Altamash (Aga Khan University's Communication Department), Heba Hashmi (AKCS-P), Safina Kousar (AKU-IED), Dr. Moin Uddin (Serena Hotels Pakistan), Tania Atzaz (FMFB-P), Aziz Ali Dad (AKRSP), Amirali Parpia (AKPBS,P), Rubab Karar (AKES,P), Shamam Khan (Focus Humanitarian Assistance, Pakistan), Nadia Huda (AKHS,P), Amin Rammal and Rizwan Jamil (Department of Communications and Publications, Ismaili Council for Pakistan), Dr. Sharifullah AKF (Pak), Ammar Malik AKF (Pak), Christopher Wilton Steer AKF (UK) and the AKF, Pakistan's Programme Heads of RD, Health and Education for providing the content for this volume.

If you are interested in submitting articles or sharing ideas please contact the editor, Laila Naz Taj in AKF, Islamabad: laila.taj@akdn.org. The next volume will appear in Autumn 2016.