



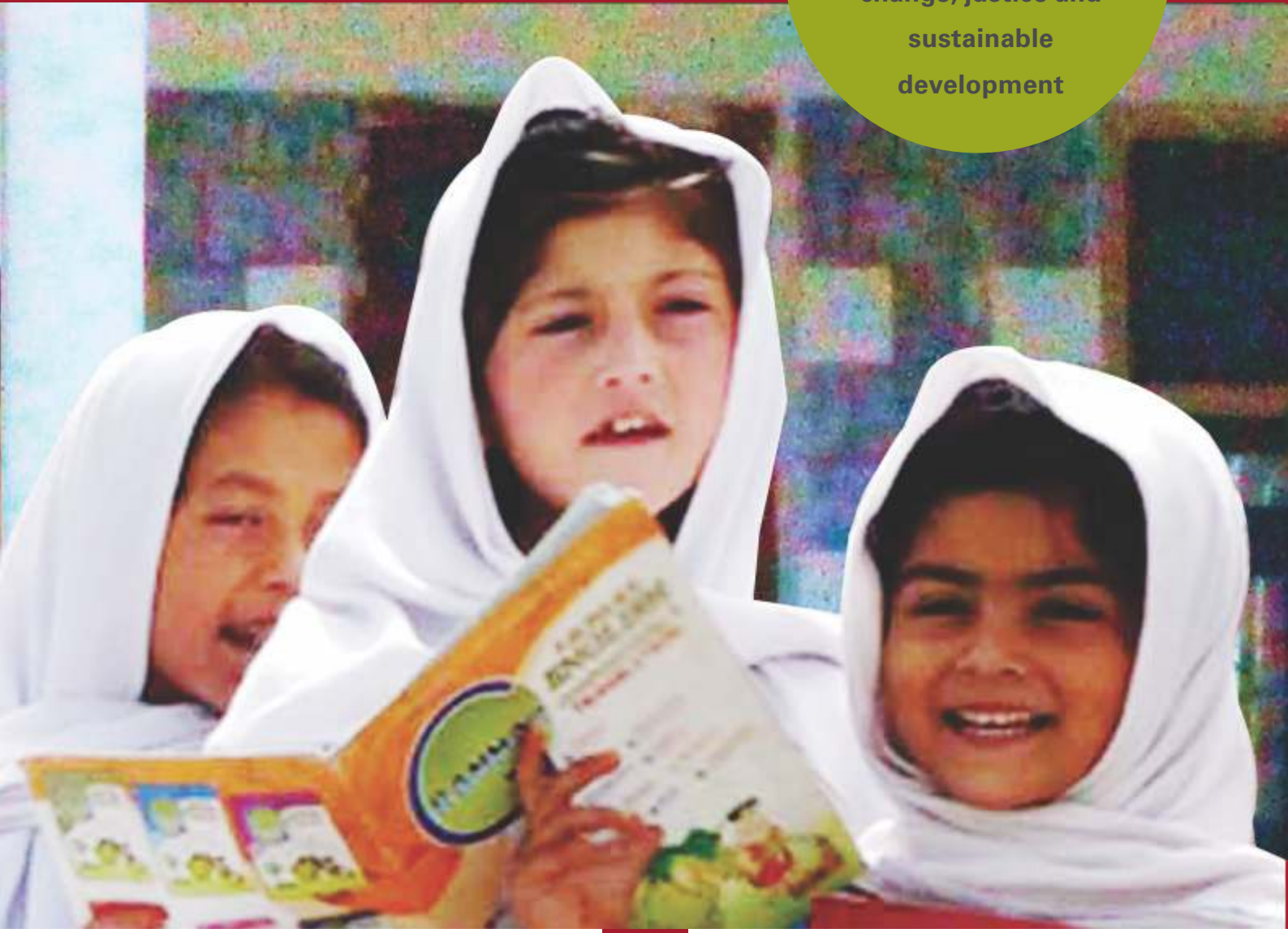
GRACE
ASSOCIATION
PAKISTAN

the grassroots
association
for community
empowerment

PROGRESS REPORT 2007-2019

25

successful
projects that
built on growth social
change, justice and
sustainable
development





GRACE is passionately committed
to tackling the root causes of
poverty, environmental degradation,
conflicts, social and economic
imbalances and exclusions
by providing practical solutions that,
when accepted in good faith
and translated into positive actions,
build on authentic growth,
social transformation, justice
and sustainable development
at grassroots level.



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INTRODUCTION

The history begins since 1992 when the founders of GRACE Association envisioned grassroots community empowerment by improving the livelihoods, including education of girls at a time when the inhabitants of remote mountain villages in Baltistan lived in extreme poverty. Huge deficits existed in both education and awareness, with only a few families able to send boys to school. Educating girls was considered sinful. There were no government school for the girl children in most of the rural village s.

This was a pivotal time when seven high school children, including Khadim Hussain (who later went on to become GRACE Association's FOUNDER), decided that action was necessary to attempt to modernize local customs that were holding back progress within their community. Despite local opposition to this initiative, the organization convinced a number of parents of the benefits of education in alleviating poverty and facilitating development. This effort resulted in 40 new boys being enrolled into the government school by 1993.

Encouraged by this early sign of success, the group of students established an organization called Waliul Asr Students Organization (WASO) to help bring about positive shifts in local attitudes. This was a starting point to improving educational prospects for all within the community. The organization's campaign to promote education for girls led to the founding of the Al-Zahra girls' school in 1993. As time passed, long held beliefs began to shift, leading to an increase in student enrolment numbers.

These developments coincided with a realization by WASO's founders that systematically addressing school issues and the village's broader development needs required participation by the entire village

community. Therefore, WASO transformed into a larger community-based organization (CBO). By 1998, the concept of educating girls was fully accepted in the community, leading to an entirely new problem - overcrowded classrooms! To resolve this issue, CBO and village communities collaborated to provide land, local goods and services.

Inspired by the efforts of the CBO Founders, the Murafie Foundation Pakistan granted a donation of Rs.350,000/- (approximately US\$ 7,000) to help the village community construct a girls' school - the first of its kind in the history of Kwardu valley. The building of a new girls school would be an important victory in its own right, but the setting up of the school was significant as it was evidence of concrete outcomes from local communities empowerment to resolve crucial social issues in their community.

In addition to improving educational opportunities, the founders started seeking external support for other local development initiatives to fulfill the increased demand within the communities. Simultaneously, these endeavors contributed enormously to changes in community attitudes and behavior towards welfare and development. The CBO launched a dynamic process of community engagement to help identify the



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History of Change 1. Peaceful protest walk for the right to electricity in the Kwardu Valley (2003). 2. Mr Hussain with CBOs/NGOs delegates on BBN progress and gender equality-Baltistan (2004). 3. Mr Hussain with Al-Zahra Girls School students and teachers (March 1997). 4. Mr Hussain with AKRSP team and Kwardu Valley elders on community development. 5. Mr. Chinoy at the inaugural ceremony of Muntazarabad Water Supply Scheme by WASEP (2002)

“ the organization’s principal method of working is in partnership with the communities and other development agencies

needs and problems of the community in a collaborative mission to alleviate poverty.

For the first time, the community convened a forum to address problems constraining local production of food and other basic commodities, such as introducing improvements to farming systems. The CBO helped launch community development projects by facilitating links and partnerships with various development organizations, including the Aga Khan Education Services Program, the Aga Khan Rural Support Program and the Water and Sanitation Extension Program. In addition, the CBO also opened advocacy networks with public sector departments at the regional level to help secure socioeconomic rights for deprived communities in Skardu.

In 2000, Khadim Hussain was named Chief Organizer of the Kwardu Development Union (KDU) – an advocacy and lobbying forum to mobilize additional public sector resources for grassroots community development. The significance of this development was that it became a key approach adopted by the KDU to complement and support enhanced development.

To date this has become the organization’s principle method of working in partnership with other development agencies. Systematic and robust steps have been taken to bring the concept of a self-funded volunteer programme to life. The process was powerful enough to acquire assets previously assumed to be inaccessible, and capable of facilitating the construction of bridges, link roads, water irrigation channels and power supplies for many deprived communities in Baltistan.

For the period 1998-2001, our CBO became one of the key partner organizations for the NGO capacity building programme of the Northern Areas Conservation Strategy Support Program (IUCN NAs). As a result of this programme the organization expanded its activities and started developing project proposals for raising funds. Through the twin approaches of community participation and building partnerships with external stakeholders, the organization was able to

implement highly effective and sustainable projects.

Consequently, in 2001, Mr. Khadim together with other CBO members formed the ‘Baltistan NGO Network’ (BNN), a collective advocacy initiative with shared objectives for networking, capacity building, promoting gender equality and development. BNN played a vital role in activating CBOs in the region by launching capacity building training workshops, networking conferences, advocacy campaigns and developing nationwide links. It also launched a three-year project focusing on gender equality by establishing a resource centre in Skardu Baltistan with Mr. Khadim as Project Coordinator.

In 2006, Khadim Hussain organized a meeting of some like-minded community development volunteers to review the progress of the one and half decade of community development activities taking into account successes and failure and lessons learnt, to address challenges of grassroots communities in the country.

The meeting focused on identifying pragmatic approaches to address root causes and impacts of poverty, environmental degradation, conflict, social/economic imbalances and social exclusion. Drawing on past experiences, the group believes that by addressing root causes, though offering practical solutions had a great potential to lead to measurable growth, social transformation and a more justice society.

The key outcome of the meeting held in 2006 was the formation of an independent institution named the GRACE Association, Pakistan dedicated to making significant contribution towards alleviating the social conditions of vulnerable communities living in the least developed parts of Pakistan. In February 2007, GRACE Association was registered as a Non Profit Organization (NPO) under the Companies Ordinance 1984 and renewed its license under Companies Act 2017 with the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Islamabad.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The reporting years have been both busy and exciting for GRACE Association as we celebrate the successful implementation of many sustainable development projects in our grassroots communities.

GRACE Association played a key role in resolving many burning socioeconomic issues within our target communities. These problems include children unable to attend school, the poor, displaced people (due to war, natural disasters etc), people with disabilities (PWDs), landless people and vulnerable youth.

Among the highlights of the past years have been the provision of inclusive primary education in the GRACE Public School for hundreds of children from poor families. In addition, and in collaboration with local communities and our own members, we have

provided free primary school places for hundreds of the most deserving girls and children with disabilities. With financial assistance from the Government of Japan, we were able to provide safe drinking water and sanitation as well as health and hygiene education to almost 13,000 displaced and native families in Astana Skardu during 2009-2010.

We succeeded in signing two-year long four grant agreements with the US Embassy in Islamabad to provide English access and so for 1800 adolescent girls from economically disadvantaged communities Gilgit, Skardu and Khaplu districts to learn the powerful tool



Introduction 1. Khadim Hussain and Sohail Mahmood with the delegation of Youth with Disabilities at GITC 2016 in Nanjing China (2016). 2. Khadim Hussain Founder GRACE Association working at GRACE Program Office Skardu (2009)

“ we promote peace and development throughout our communities in our country and the whole world

that is the English language and become better connected with the rest of the world.

Our community volunteers have been fully involved in rescue, relief and now redevelopment activities for victims of the 2010, 2011 and 2013 floods that devastated so much of Pakistan.

GRACE Association received a Grassroots Initiative Program (GRIP) project Award from the 'One UN' Joint Program on Environment for introducing a sustainable model of natural resource management and climate change mitigation at grassroots level.

We organize the International Day for People with Disabilities on 3 December. We were able to distribute winter relief items to the most vulnerable 353 flood victims in Qumrah and Kharko villages of Skardu Baltistan in collaboration with the Australian High Commission, Islamabad. Since 2016, GRACE is organizing a delegation of 4 youth with disabilities from Pakistan and participating in the Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities in different countries organized by the Korean Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities.

Looking to the future, we have plans to promote education for all children, early childhood development services, the establishment of community schools networks. At the same time we continue our collaboration with, and support for, women health workers and Government health care initiatives for mother and child health care services, family planning and polio prevention vaccinations. We are also looking forward to enhancing our skills in providing services for the community-based rehabilitation, inclusive education and empowerment of people with disabilities, women, street children in semi rural areas and elderly people.

We have a clear and shared vision and mission that together drive the GRACE Association. They ensure that we are in close contact with real-world events and that our commitment remains strong and pur -

poseful. We are also keen to help other communities replicating our successful projects in the countryside. In particular, these include environmental protection projects, community organization techniques, change adaptation initiatives, livelihood enterprises and voluntary service networks dedicated to welfare and development.

Together, with your continuing support, we will make the future not only a time in which grassroots community development issues find durable solutions, but also in the years to come we will build on this foundation to make greater advances in ensuring that the grassroots development profession is stronger, more capable and more respected than ever before.

Indeed, I wish we could replicate them to promote peace and development throughout the country and the whole world. We can accomplish little by ourselves, but I am sure that together we can achieve much. If you are acquainted with individuals or organizations who you think we should be collaborating with, or if you know anyone who could link arms with us as a community development professional, please, put them in touch with GRACE Association!

The partnership between GRACE Association and its stakeholder community has been the key to success. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to our supporters, volunteers, donors, board members and general members for their continuous support and guidance to run the organization, keeping it on the track to achieve its burning objectives.

We perpetually seek and enlist the full protection and blessing of Allah the Almighty in prayers and proactive good deeds to move forward in faith, love, charity and service.

With my best personal regards,



Khadim Hussain
Founder & Chief Executive

ABOUT GRACE

We are passionately committed to tackling the root causes of poverty, environmental degradation, conflicts, social and economic imbalances and exclusions by providing practical solutions that, when accepted in good faith and translated into positive actions, build on authentic growth, social transformation, justice and sustainable development

Vision

GRACE Association Pakistan envisages the socioeconomic aspirations of marginalized and economically vulnerable communities (particularly of women and children and adolescents) to create a prosperous and peaceful society

Mission

GRACE endeavours to empower and improve the quality of life of marginalized and vulnerable grassroots communities in the least developed parts of Pakistan, focusing on welfare, participatory research and development, capacity building, promotion of best practices, partnership building, policy advocacy, and by launching sustainable and innovative project models.

Governance & Management

The general guidelines for governance are articulated in the Memorandum and Article of Association of the organization. The organization consists of a general body represented by the general body members. The General Body meets on an annual basis. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors (BoD) consisting of seven members elected by the General Body who serve a term of two years.

Overall policy and decision making rests with the BoD. The BoD appoint the Chief Executive of the organization and vest in him powers and functions related to the management and administration of the affairs of the NPO subject to their general supervision and control.

The Board also appoints the Company Secretary to manage all secretarial functions and to ensure compliance of the Ordinance. Policies and management guidelines is provided in the 'GRACE Manual of Operations'.

Organizational Values

GRACE has adopted two core values - social justice and equity (rights, vulnerability, and access) and democracy (participation, transparency, accountability and rules and regulations) - for its institutional norms and programmatic operations. These values must reflect in GRACE program planning and implementation, human resources attitudes, functions and in delivery of their tasks.

PRINCIPLE APPROACHES

Over the years, our programmes have continued to exhibit and demonstrate a rich blend of theology and practice. We perpetually seek the full protection and blessing of Allah the Almighty in prayers and proactive good deeds as we move forward in faith, love, charity and service.

Social mobilization

Social mobilization is the cornerstone of the organization's principles and all programs are based on this approach, with the intention to foster enhanced community participation, ownership and sustainability of the initiatives. This is a prerequisite to moving rural people from a beneficiary to partner status in locally based development.

GRACE Association has more than a decade long experience of community mobilization, motivating

people to invest their human, physical and financial resources. The premise is investing in people will facilitate progress and develop a commitment within the community to sustain the interventions on a long term basis. Social mobilization is the trade-mark of all initiatives of the organization.

Volunteerism

GRACE Association positions itself as a development organization that is run, managed and coordinated by a cadre of dedicated professional and community



Principal approaches 1: GRACE Volunteers, Wajida, Rubina and Narjis with Nahida Batool (9), watch the flood that hit Qumra village. Nahida was the only survivor (out of 10 family members) who were washed away by the flood in August 2010. 2: Ghulam Ali Mustoo (a polio victim), built his confidence after attending meetings at the GRACE community centre at Skardu.

volunteers. It has made major achievements in social and economic development by promoting and inculcating the concept of volunteerism as a strategy for workforce development.

In addition to developing local volunteerism, GRACE Association has sought to build working partnerships with national and international volunteers to contribute valuable resources, which are also instrumental in supporting the work in the communities without increasing overhead costs.

Advocacy

Albert Einstein once quoted that necessity is the mother of invention, and this quote today stands true as the impetus for the work GRACE Association performs. From its inception, to-date, our organization is faced with an ambition to improve community welfare that far outweighs available resources.

In an effort to bring these two aspects to balance, the organization lobbies and advocates with external development agencies particularly in the public sector, religious arenas, and with political representatives in the aim to seek complementation and support.

This has now become our principle approach, and the organization believes this approach will draw attention to the needs of the communities, and consequently help find solutions to address systemic societal problems.

Human rights

There are direct linkages between human rights provision and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this respect, GRACE Association seeks to achieve objectives: to preserve and protect human dignity.

This principle at its core is grounded in securing human rights for indigenous/ethnic communities through promoting children's rights to education, and enhancing access to health facilities. This principle has been instrumental in shaping future programs of the organization by expanding deliberations on how to involve the most deprived and socially excluded groups in development programs. Human rights remain an overarching ethical framework of the organization and are defined in its code of conduct.

Building Partnerships and networking

GRACE Association believes that working in isolation neither supports quality in operational functions nor ensures sustainability which has three fundamental elements: policy related sustainability, financial and institutional sustainability.

Partnership enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation and develops foster synergies with external partners. It promotes accountability, transparency, quick dissemination of results and replication of good practices. As an essential prerequisite for mobilizing support, GRACE Association seeks to develop networks with the compatible organizations.



Principle approaches 1. GRACE Public School community at a school gathering (2009). 2. Students at the English Access Program Skardu got maximum awards in summer training camp sponsored by the US Embassy Islamabad, in partnership with the Society for International Education, iEARN –Pakistan, July 17-29. A good opportunity for building partnerships and networking at the Beach Luxury Hotel in Karachi.

STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

Promoting education and public awareness

Education and public awareness are essentials components of any development program designed and implemented under the auspice of our organization. In the current globalized era where knowledge and information constitute fundamental sources of well-being and progress our communities have been left behind. In addition, the formal education system does not have the capacity to educate communities on how to develop in a sustainable manner for instance encouraging land preservation for sustainable agri culture.

GRACE Association recognizes that most remote communities still lack adequate access to a minimum acceptable quality of education. The organization has

devised a well defined and result oriented framework to address this issue, and raise awareness of all its clients and target groups to enhance their understanding.

Human & Institutional Development (HID)

Human and Institutional Development is recognized as one of the key elements to ensure that sector investment is efficient and intervention is self-sustainable. It is the policy of GRACE Association to implement all projects with the help of CBOs to ensure the sustainability of projects.

GRACE believes that promotion and strengthening of participatory, transparent and accountable local level institutions is an essential vehicle for mobilizing local



Strategic interventions 1: Participants in the student's competition "Enhancement Speech and Skills", a program organized by GRACE (2010). 2: English Access Program Staff training at Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad (July 2010)



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Strategic interventions 1. Traditional method of ploughing, which is still done in mountain villages due to no road access for tractors. 2. Young boys enjoying egg cutting at Noroz reflects Persian influence. 3. Kids in refugee village Brolmo Colony Skardu very happy on accessing water through pipelines. 4. Grace Public School students enjoying inter- class group discussion. 5. GRACE team assessing needs of flood-affected victims in Kharku village Khaplu Baltistan.

resources and ensuring effective and efficient deployment for achieving our goals. Therefore community mobilization and organization is an important aspect of the organization's activities.

In this regard, various capacity building workshops are conducted for enhancing the managerial capacity of network member CBOs/WOs on various topics related to social development.

Community development

This concept is embedded in the organization's fundamental value for "Democracy". GRACE's interventions are steered towards promoting welfare and development of all the community members.

As a principal policy, participation of all the segments of the society is encouraged in the planning, implementation to ensure they receive equitable benefits. It is by virtue of this strategic approach that all past and on-going projects are sustainable.

Participatory research and development

Identifying issues, trends and formulating future strategies of successful operations is one of the functional approaches of organization.

However, GRACE adopts a methodology of research, which incorporates finding derived from the community. Participation of the key stakeholders in designing and implementation of project activities facilitates

the communities' ownership of the project processes and outcomes. Members of GRACE Association in Gilgit-Baltistan, have used a sustainable development model, this model is now ready to be extended at the regional and national level with support at the national and international level.

Gender empowerment and diversity

GRACE was the first organization in the remote mountain villages of Baltistan Northern Areas to offer education opportunities to females. The organization took steps to also include in its curriculum specific development related training for women such as mother and child health care.

The organization is committed to become more inclusive, and has recently begun to consistently focus on mainstreaming diversity in its projects. Diversity is also defined in the ethical code of conduct of the organization.

Local resource mobilization

One of GRACE Association's major strengths is the ability to mobilize local resources – this is a cornerstone of all the strategic interventions.

On average 50 percent of resources required to implement micro and medium level projects have been sourced at the local level. This has permitted the organization to sustain its working ability, even when faced with funding shortages.



Strategic interventions 1. Khadim Hussain in a local meeting discussing resource mobilization with displaced communities in Skardu. 2. Students at GRACE Public School presenting National Songs in a school gathering.

OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

- **Promote early childhood care and development, quality inclusive girl education through secondary and beyond in disadvantaged grassroots communities;**
- **Strengthen human and institutional development through awareness raising, capacity building training, partnerships building and networking;**
- **Enhance access of poor and disadvantage communities to safe drinking water and sanitation, irrigation water, English language programs, youth skills enhancement initiatives and livelihood opportunities;**
- **Introduce sustainable models of community based climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in rural villages;**
- **Support people affected by disasters and conflict situations through rescue, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction initiatives.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our projects address issues of poverty, environmental degradation, conflicts, deprivation and exclusion. Addressing these needs have required focus on policy advocacy, promotion of justice and equality and development through community empowerment. Below we share our key successful projects.

1

Provided furniture and educational equipment for GRACE Public School Skardu in collaboration with German Embassy Islamabad December 2007

In February 2007, GRACE Association Pakistan established the GRACE Public School, in an old rented building following continuous requests from the communities in Skardu. To run the school GRACE Association and the communities needed educational resources and which were beyond the capacity of the communities and organization.

Therefore, GRACE Association requested the Embassy of Federal Republic Germany Islamabad for some basic educational equipment and furniture for GRACE Public School Astana Skardu under the Embassy's Micro Project Scheme.

In July 2007 the honorable Ambassador of Germany in Pakistan, Dr. Gunter Mulack, personally visited GRACE Public school, to observe the educational needs of the school children and promote education in the area. He approved the GRACE Association project and provided a set of computers for office- use, and audio video aids such as a TV, a digital camera,

CDs and gaming materials, white boards and basic furniture for students and teachers worth PKR 387,100 (US\$ 4,839). The Ambassador visited the school again in 2008 on completion of the project and gave high praise to GRACE Association's efforts to promote education for children within the communities, particularly the displaced families of Kargil, Gultary and Brolomo areas. He assured further support for GRACE Association activities.

Contributions from the German Embassy Islamabad (2007) greatly helped improve quality of teaching and learning in the school. There were over 100 students enrolled at the school, of whom 50 percent female children and 15 percent children with disabilities. These children have low vision, partially hearing and speech impairments.

2

Constructed GRACE Public School building, funded by the Government of Japan - August 2008 - April 2009

Responding to the pressing need of the grassroots communities in northern Pakistan and communities of the Baltistan area to provide children access to education, GRACE Association Pakistan, together with



Educational equipment for GRACE Public School 1. Dr Gunter Mulack, Ambassador of the Republic of Germany visiting GRACE Public School students at the old, 2007 building. 2. Mr Mulack with his wife meeting GRACE school staff. 3. GRACE Public School students listening the lessons. 4. GRACE Public School nursery students on picnic. 5. A joint nursery class of Al-Muntazar Academy Kwardu and GRACE Public School Astana Skardu

“ under the supervision of GRACE, the school is run by the Village Education Committee (VEC) represented by parents, village elders, community development workers and the school’s principal

its partners, the Himalayan Green Club Japan built a new school building in Astana Skardu. The school was inaugurated on April 4, 2009. The local communities of Astana donated 2 kanals of uncompensated land worth PKR 3 million (US\$ 37,500) for construction of the school. The School is located at the centre of the Astana village Skardu in Northern Pakistan, approximately 8 km from Skardu Airport and 4 km from Skardu town. It is surrounded by beautiful green landscape, in an area rich with fruit trees.

The original school began in a rented old home in 2007. However, GRACE identified the need for improvements to the school to make it earthquake proof. It was also necessary to promote education to the children belonging to the 13,000 displaced populations that had settled in Astana and its surroundings after the India-Pakistan Wars of 1965, 1971 and 1999, particularly girls, children with disabilities, and school dropouts. This was deemed essential to support community cohesiveness.

Under the supervision of GRACE Association, the school is run by the Village Education Committee (VEC) represented by parents, village elders, community development workers and the school principal.

GRACE Association has been successful in implementing the objectives of the school, which is to successfully function and providing primary education to children of Astana, Skardu and neighboring villages.

The project was made possible thanks to a partnership with the Himalayan Green Club NPO, through an invaluable grant donated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

3

Women’s political empowerment workshop in Skardu - October 2008

Prior to the Gilgit Baltistan Legislative Assembly Elections 2009, GRACE Association contributed to the conduction of fair and free elections by holding two polling workshops for women in rural villages of district Skardu.

The workshops were held on November 10 in Brolmo Colony Madrassa and November 11 at Al’Zahra Girls Middle School Kwardu. The first day workshop was attended by approximately 90 village women, the second days workshop had around 50 participants. In previous elections in the region nearly half of the votes cast by women have been declared invalid due to lack of awareness on proper methods to stamp the ballot paper.

The most common mistakes made by women included, stamping on the lines and double-stamping. Women are also often misled by opposition party agents to vote for a candidate who were not their choice.

GRACE Association is endeavoring to reduce the number of invalid ballot papers in local elections by showing village women the proper way to stamp their ballot papers. GRACE Public School teachers Aneela, Maryam, Tahira, Samina and GRACE volunteer Ms Evelin Nõmmiste were facilitating to demonstrate to the local women how to correctly stamp the polling



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Construction of GRACE Public School. 1: The building under construction. 2. School teachers with Mr. Shamshad Hussain, Program Coordinator. 3. The completed building. 4. Mr. Kajita San and Yama Moto San at a monitoring visit from Japan during the school construction. 5. Wazir Ghulam Abbas, community elder, Deputy Commissioner Skardu Mr. Bilal Lodhi and Dr Hassan Khan Amacha at Grace Public School inauguration ceremony

“ trained women can use their learnt skills for their own benefit, and also to support the family’s income. Importantly, the course also connected them with other women

cards. Following the demonstrations by the teachers, the women practiced correctly stamping polling cards.

As part of the workshop, women also had the opportunity to present their questions and concerns to GRACE Association Pakistan. Discussions with village women revealed that the awareness about elections protocol is very low amongst the women. Many women went to the polling stations just because it is a tradition and they tended to vote for candidates as advised by their husbands. GRACE Association sensitized them to on their rights to free and fair elections, and also how to address opposition party representatives who visited their villages.

The impact of the workshops was immediate and encouraging, in a following polling workshop the women did not make any voting mistakes, as reported by the polling station agents while talking with GRACE Association members. This was an improvement to the previous election, where 20 percent of the women votes at the same polling station had been discounted as foul votes.

4

Vocational Skills training for women in partnership with Himalayan Green Club - April to November 2009

Women in remote rural areas are mainly confined to household activities. Traditionally, they play minimal roles in direct income generation for the

family. However, it is anticipated that if the women also got an opportunity to support the family income, it could provide great financial relief to the family. For facilitate this, GRACE Association Pakistan in association with Himalayan Green Club Japan established a vocational training centre for women in April 2009 at GRACE Public School Skardu. The centre was opened to specifically train women of the Astana and neighboring villages in “Cutting and Sewing of Children and Women Dresses”. The target group was women identified as poor and illiterate.

The course offered them the opportunity not only to develop a new skill but the chance to get away from their housework, children and families for a while and to work in a supportive and friendly environment with other women. Two female instructors – Ms Zakia Nisar Khan and Ms Zeban Muhammad were hired by GRACE Association to train the women.

25 women successfully completed the 6 month training course. On completion, a certification program was organized by GRACE Association Program Office Skardu on November 17, 2009 at GRACE Public School. All the women were very happy to have acquired and new skill, and on their successful completion of the training.

At the certification ceremony Ms Khan said that the trained women will use their learnt skills for their benefit, and also to boost up the economic conditions of their families. The course also offered them skills to empower them within the society. The instructor thanked GRACE Association Pakistan for providing this opportunity to enhance income generating skills for women in their remote villages.



Empowering women. 1. Women participating in a community gathering. 2. Women in Gultary and Brolmo Colony Skardu attend a political empowerment workshop. 3. Ms Tahira Azam, GRACE Volunteer, training women how to vote correctly. 4. Women's Vocational Training Centre at GRACE School Skardu. 5. All 25 women earned well deserved certificates on completion of their training in cutting and sewing children and women's clothes.

“ the Art Roots workshop aimed to provide children with creative opportunity to express their observations, dreams, and fantasies

A trainee representing all women said that they are interested in learning more skills in knitting and embroidery. Many other women of the surrounding villages upon knowledge of the services course offered by GRACE Association are now looking for admission to this vocational centre. In light of this need, GRACE Association will continue the centre throughout the year.

At the ceremony Mr. Khadim Hussain, Founder of GRACE Association Pakistan, acknowledged that “the program was started in cooperation with HGC Japan. It was the initial steps towards establishing a Technical Training Institute (T.T.I.) for women in the area. He further stated that GRACE Association is embarking on many other initiatives to make the society aware about the work of women and their important role to develop the society. He added that unemployment is a global challenge but women can achieve self dependency and employment in their communities through skills enhancement.

Also present at the ceremony was, Ms. Nommiste an Estonian volunteer working for GRACE Association. She said, ‘I am very happy here working with the women and I wish to share my skills with you all.’

5

Art Roots Workshop for children in Skardu - April 2009

GRACE Association Pakistan organized a creative four days Art Roots Workshop for GRACE Public School

students and staff in collaboration with the young Artist Anwer Ali Muhib who came from Karachi on a special trip to GRACE Public School Skardu to enhance the art and craft skills in children in the mountainous remote region of Baltistan.

The workshop aimed to provide children with creative opportunity to express their observations, dreams, fantasies and skills. The nature of workshop was more like group activity rather than to instruct in a conventional way.

Group exercises and interactive activities helped children to express their ideas and to gain confidence. Ultimately, GRACE plans to exhibit the art work produced by the children.

On the basis of the workshop experience we plan to work with children in future and this will enhance the scope of work for GRACE Association’s early childhood care and development programs.

This and future workshops will be a good experience for children to:

- Express their creativity
- Learn basic shapes and drawing techniques
- Help to observe nature, materials and different objects
- Work in groups and establish nurturing environments
- Use their imaginations and experience freedom of expression



Art Roots workshop. GRACE's students and teachers busily expressing their creativity and learning basic shapes and drawing techniques. Mr. Anwer Ali, the young designer and artist and GRACE volunteer, helps them observe nature, materials and different objects.

“ we believe that the battle against poverty, disease and discrimination will not be won without targeted laws, policies and programmes

6

International Day of People with Disabilities - December 3 (2009 - 2019)

The GRACE Association, Pakistan organizes Walk on December 3, International Day of Persons with Disabilities every year to raise awareness among masses on special rights of the people with disabilities and remind the promises of government and the United Nations regarding “mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals.

GRACE Association Pakistan organizes the walks in collaboration of other organizations and the Prime Minister Primary Healthcare Initiative Skardu that has been the active collaborating organization with GRACE Association for this cause in Gilgit Baltistan.

The walk broadcast on all local cable networks and in some national level TV channels to raise awareness and sensitize the people on the rights of people with disabilities.

On December 3, 2010 more than 1200 peoples belonging to different walks of life participated in the Awareness Walk from GRACE Public School to Radio Pakistan Chowk Skardu.

The district administration heads including the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, District Health officer, Journalists, Teachers, Students and Representatives of Civil Society Organizations and CBOs participated in the walk with people with

disabilities to express their solidarity with them.

The people with disabilities presented their problems and appealed to the Government for more support. They demand implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and integrating their needs into national Millennium Development Goal agendas.

The Deputy Commissioner Skardu highly appreciated the endeavour of GRACE Association and PPHI Skardu. He announced at the occasion an employment opportunity in his department for a deserving person with a disability, and assured his full cooperation with organizations working on disability issues namely GRACE Association and PPHI Skardu.

GRACE Association believes that the battle against poverty, disease and discrimination will not be won without targeted laws, policies and programmes that empower this group. A concerted effort is required to include people with disabilities as not only beneficiaries but also valued agents of change.

7

Provided tap-drinking water for 1,275 locals and displaced families in Astana-Skardu, funded by the Government of Japan - October 2009 to July 2010

Key facts about the project:

Project title

- GRACE Water Supply Project Astana-Skardu 2009



International day for people with disabilities. 1. Deputy Commissioner Skardu Arqam Tariq addressing the public (2010). 2. Wazir Shamshad Hussain and Kacho Basharat Hussain addressing the public (2010). 3. Official walk from Grace Public School to Radio Pakistan Chowk Skardu (2009). 4. Khadim Hussain CEO GRACE with participants of social welfare council Islamabad (2014). 5. GRACE team in the WHO and GoP Consultative Meeting on Disability Legislation Islamabad (2018).

“ improving water supply allowed the women more time to collect water tariffs and participate in the village’s water committee

- Total project cost: US\$ 136,078.00
- Government of Japan contribution: US\$ 90,262.00
- Community/GRACE contribution: US\$ 45,816.00
- Contract grant date: November 4, 2009
- Start date: November 14, 2009
- Project end date: July 31, 2010

Project objectives

To improve the quality of life for the displaced population particularly women and female children through:

- Providing safe drinking water to families in the target area
- Reducing the work load of women and providing with them with skills to conduct home-based business activities
- Organizing women water management committees to ensure sustainability of the project, and enhance their participation in socioeconomic development activities
- Increasing the girls enrolment in schools through awareness raising initiatives

Project Outcomes

The project was been completed in 10 months – period Nov. 2009 to Jul. 2010. Activities included installation of a 4 km pipeline to transport water from main water source – WaterTank near Sadpara Lake in Skardu City, installation of distribution pipelines in Brolmo Colony, renovation and repairing of pipes in Astana Bala, Paen and Gultary Colony and construction of Brolmo Colony WaterTank. Upon completion of the project safe drinking water was provided to 5080 local and 7670 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) inhabitants of Astana Skardu village. GRACE Association conducted capacity building meetings/training workshops on water supply project

management and operations. Currently, the committees’ members have started managing and operating the projects independently in their respective villages. Women are also involved in the water supply scheme operations, including water management activities such as fining families who waste water.

Village Water Committees and Women Water Committees have full ownership of responsibilities to operate the water project. Girls who normally had the responsibility to fetch water now have time to attend school. A special pipeline has been supplied to GRACE Public School Skardu and the school children now have access to safe drinking water.

Improving water supply allowed the women more time to dedicate to other domestic/ personal welfare and development activities, by decreasing the water fetching workload of the women. Women are now participating in the community level activities, collecting water tariff and helping the village water committee to operate the water supply project successfully.

8

**GRACE Association won UN Online Volunteer -
ing Award 2009 - December 2009**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme on International Volunteer Day, 5 December announced the winners of the “Online Volunteering Award 2009”, honouring ‘outstanding’ contributions of volunteers who work through the internet to contribute to peace and development by helping non-profit development



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Drinking water in Astana Skardu.

1. Before: waiting to fill water pots sourced from one single tap. 2. Mr Khadim Hussain and Wazir Shamshad Hussain (GRACE) with H.E. Mr. Chihiro Atsumi, the Ambassador of Japan in Pakistan, at signing ceremony. 3. Water supply is now close to people's homes. 4. Community helping install water pipes. 5. GRACE Association UN Online Volunteer team. 2009 Award by the UN Online Volunteers (UNV).

“ the UN Volunteer award honours the efforts of online volunteers in helping improve the quality of life of poor communities in Northern Pakistan



organizations. The awards are an initiative of the UNV Online Volunteering service.

Supporting ‘Volunteering for our Planet’, the chosen UNV theme for International Volunteer Day (IVD), a special award to honour the efforts of online volunteers who support community adaptation,

innovation and help mitigate environmental issues. A jury of experts in volunteerism and development cooperation chose the winners based on their commitment, contributions, the results of their collaboration(s) and the impact these efforts made to the activities of the organizations they supported.

The jury included Mr. Nicolas Alipui – Director of Programmes at UNICEF, Mr. Mauro Massoni – Head of the Multilateral Office of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Taras Tymchuk – Programme Coordinator of the GURT Resource Center for NGO Development, Ukraine, as well as UNV representatives from country offices and headquarters.

GRACE Association congratulates all winning teams of the UNV Online Volunteering Award 2009, particularly the GRACE Team of 10 online volunteers that helped GRACE Association of Pakistan to improve the quality of life for marginalized and vulnerable communities in less developed parts of Northern Pakistan:

Aisha Mian, Jennifer Wells, Kalloimora Bzepam, Katie Simons, Laura Gamboa-Cavazos, Laura Riveni, Loai Farajallah, Paula Ellinger da Fonseca, Sehrish Rashid, and Yvonne Nelson.

GRACE Association Pakistan thanks UNV for selecting GRACE’s team as one of the winners of the UNV Online Volunteering Award 2009!

Visit http://www.onlinevolunteering.org/en/vol/stories/online_volunteers_of_2009.html for more details.

9

Rescue and relief services for flood-affected villages in Gilgit-Baltistan - July to December 2010

The devastating Pakistan flooding of 2010 caused major damage in the country. It began in the northern parts of the country including Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) province, eventually affecting more than 2.5 million people around the country.

GRACE Association Pakistan has been engaged in the rescue and relief activities from the very beginning, in Skardu and Ganche districts of GB province. The organization organized its community volunteer network to provide outreach in five villages including Qumra, Kwardu, Kharko, Talis and Basho.

GRACE volunteers were the first teams to reach the affected areas in the badly hit Qumra and Talis villages with much needed rescue and relief support. The volunteers gave special attention – psychosocial care and treatment to families with ill members, pregnant women, children, elderly and people with disabilities. The majority of the people in the affected areas had also lost personal belongings, and members of their families in the floods.



Rescue and relief for flood-affected villages. 1 and 2. Flood damages in the Qumrah and Kharku villages in Baltistan. 3, 4 and 5. GRACE volunteers celebrating the Moslem festival of Eid with flood victims at the Qumrah and Kharku village Skardu and Ganche Baltistan.

“ GRACE volunteers were the first teams to reach the affected areas in the badly hit Qumra and Talis villages and provide much needed rescue and relief support

GRACE Association Pakistan also played a major role in resource mobilization for the victims by developing linkages and making appeals to government, civil society and other supporting organizations to help the flood victims. The efforts were effective in meeting the needs of the victims, such as to provide life-saving medicines and engineering support from local doctors. In addition, medical camps by the government were set up in Shot, Oro and Talis areas that were the hardest hit, and Qumra, Bondu and Kharko villages that were inaccessible.

GRACE Association conducted a detailed assessment survey to identify immediate and long-term needs of the flood victims in Baltistan and circulated the report to humanitarian organizations, governmental departments and support organizations so that they could help the flood victims with necessary arrangements.

GRACE Association Pakistan distributed relief and Eid-ul-Fitr gift packages on September 11, 2010 among flood-affected people in Qumra and other affected villages in Gilgit-Baltistan. The Eid gifts were distributed among 39 flood affected families living in tents and included clothes for women and men, children toys, biscuits, and food items.

10

Distribution of Winter Relief Items in flood affected Kharko and Qumrah villages Skardu Baltistan - December 2010)

- Project title: GRACE-DAP Winter Relief Project

Skardu Baltistan

- Donor: Australian High Commission Direct Aid Programme, DAP, Islamabad
- Total project cost: PKR 1,803,660 (100%)
- Contribution by AHC: PKR 1,327,660 (74%)
- Contribution by GRACE Voluntary Services: PKR 476,000 (26%)
- Contract grant date: November 20, 2010
- Start date: November 14, 2009
- Project completion date: December 31, 2010

Project Objectives: To reduce further suffering of the most vulnerable flood victims during the winter season through provision of essential winter relief items to 312 individuals in the most affected villages – Kharko, Qumrah and Gilgit-Baltistan.

GRACE Association Pakistan distributed winter relief items including; 48 Nestlé Cerelac packets, sleeping bags for 16 infants, 312 pairs of winter shoes, warmer sweaters and suits, gloves and mufflers, wheelchairs for 15 persons (including women) with physical disabilities, 39 sleeping kits including 117 mattress and bed sheets. The items were distributed in presence of and by heads of district administration Ganche Baltistan – Deputy Commissioner Raja Fazal Khaliq, SSP Syed Ahmad, DSP Mr. Furman Ali, District Health Officer Dr. Sadiq Shah, and notable citizens of the area – Mr. Abdul Kareem, Abdul Ghafoor and Sheikh Taha of Qumra.

The recipients expressed their gratitude to the AHC DAP and GRACE Association Pakistan. The Deputy Commissioner Ganche commended GRACE's response efforts and requested the organization expand its services to other villages in the districts such as



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Winter relief. 1, 2, 3, 4. GRACE volunteers distributing supplies to the 2 most affected villages by the floods, Qumrah and Kharku Baltistan. Project in collaboration with Direct Aid Program (DAP) - Australian High Commission. 5. Senior Superintendent of Police Ganche district, Syed Ahmad Shah, DSP Furman Akli and District Health Office Dr. Sadiq Shah distributing supplies to families in need. Fifteen wheelchairs were distributed for people with physical disabilities (2010). The community members, children and women were happy and grateful.

“ we have been involved in the rescue,
relief and rehabilitation of flood affected
by floods in Gilgit-Baltistan since day 1

Frano, Surmo, Talis and Basho and Kwardu. Wazir Shamshad Hussain Coordinator for GRACE Association Pakistan thanked the district administration, media and community elders for their cooperation in distribution of the items to flood victims and assured GRACE's continued endeavours in future relief efforts.

The winter relief items reduced the suffering of the affected people, and the prevalence of diseases like pneumonia, cold cough, meningitis, flu, fever etc in the severe winter conditions. The assistance also helped the villagers, in saving their modest resources for future requirements.

The project progress report is the main tools used to measure the project achievements.

11

Urgent call for help through global giving - October 2010

GRACE Association has been involved in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation of flood affectees in Gilgit-Baltistan since day one. After the Pakistan tsunami flooding 2010 the situations of humanitarian needs were so immense and growing worse. At this point your donations are the lifeline of flood relief efforts in Gilgit-Baltistan. There was a rush for needs and services at ground. Rescued and survived people need essential items for subsistence. There was a chance if relief goods and services are delayed most of the survivors will become physically weak to endure the

vagaries of weather. So, GRACE Association participated in an online fundraising challenge at Global Giving Foundation to support through mobilizing all resources to help the flood victims.

Through this online fundraising opportunity we secured a sum of donations PKR 135,628 (\$1,654.00). GRACE Association purchased relief items as required by the flood victims and distributed them among those affected in Kwardu area of Skardu Baltistan.

12

English Access Microscholarship Program Skardu - April 2010- December 2019

Access to English Language, Cultural Understanding and Personal Development for 13-20 years adolescents from economically disadvantaged families in since 2010.

GRACE Association is providing the two-year English Access Microscholarship Program in Khaplu, Skardu and Gilgit, in collaboration with the Regional English Language Office (RELO), US Embassy Islamabad.

This Program is in direct response to the growing demand for improved English language skills in international and national communication. We are providing the two-year Access Programme in under-privileged rural and urban areas of Gilgit-Baltistan. The goal of the Program is to prepare gifted students in both written and spoken English, so that they can be more easily integrated into the global marketplace and have access to the world.



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Call for help. 1 and 2. Allama Shiekh Muhammad Islamail distributing relief to women in Kwardu Baltistan flood affected areas (2010). 3. Women and children are being helped. 4. Musa youth with a burnt leg received a crutch from GRACE. 5. A mother in the flood affected areas received warm clothes for her children.



students in both written and spoken English, so that they can integrate into the global marketplace

The Access program provides a foundation of English language skills to bright, economically disadvantaged adolescents worldwide including Pakistan through after-school classes and intensive sessions. This program help understand culture and democratic values, improve the students' potential to participate successfully in the socioeconomic development of the country. It also increases chances of competing for and participating in future exchange programs and higher studies for the participants.

Programme Implementation

In addition to his duties as GRACE Association Programme Coordinator, Wazir Shamshad Hussain also serves as the Access Coordinator. The Program now successfully provides education for 900 male and 900 female students from 2010 to date.

This Program includes the following self-enhancement and career progression activities:

Comprehension, reading, writing, conversation, improving vocabulary and 'Spelling Bee' competition, handwriting improvement, test preparation, and essay competition.

This is an after-school program where students are streamed into separate English Access classes. Qualified local language instructors having Masters Degrees in English deliver and manage these classes.

Through the ACCESS enhancement programs, special emphasis is given to students' spoken skills, fostering their intellectual growth and building confidence. Our program develops a rich, educational communication system between teachers and students and with the students' respective communities through community service programs. Our students also take part in welfare and development programs at local, national and regional levels.

The Access Program participants feedback shows that this is the first ever programme of its kind in G-B, designed to expand knowledge and create opportunities for the isolated people of Baltistan, enabling them to join the rest of the modern world through the medium of English. Their reflections are very encouraging, mentioning how this program has helped them realize their earlier isolation as well as explore possibilities for further improving the quality of education in our region.

In addition to now being able to understand English, they are also more confident and have a vastly better understanding of the rest of the world. In turn, this has created a heightened respect for different cultures and societies elsewhere in the world.

In January 2011, some Access students visited the US Embassy and other Access Centres in Islamabad. One student, Ms Rubina Ehsan, participated in a summer workshop in the United States. She is the first girl student to visit the US and benefited greatly from the opportunity of spending time in a multicultural environment. On her return, her excitement was clear to see as, losing no time in sharing her experiences with colleagues at the Access Program Skardu, she described her impressions of American and other cultures as she met many other country fellows.

Certificate of Award and Completion

Participation and completion of the two-year ACCESS Program records in the form of graduation certificates for successful students. This certificate help them apply for further education and scholarships abroad.

GRACE Access Program has brought significant change in personal development, confidence and comprehensive learning skills through interactive teaching and learning exercises and practical works in term of community services.



GRACE English Access Program Gilgit-Baltistan 1. GRACE Access Program Students with Ms. Siddiqa Musa at Khaplu Public School, Ganche (2017). 2. GRACE Access Program students Khaplu center presenting Tableau in cultural dresses. 3. GRACE Access students Skardu center celebrating International Day of Girl Child (2018) 4. GRACE Access Center Gilgit on an exposure trip to Ata Abad Hunza (2016) 5. GRACE Access program students from Gilgit attending DAWN Spelling Bee with Mr Shamshad Hussain and program instructor Samina Yasmeen.



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STUDYING MAGAZINE AFTER ACTIVITIES



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GRACE ACCESS

English Access Microscholarship Program.

1. GRACE Access Program Students an on an outdoor learning trip in Skardu (2018). 2. GRACE Access program students learning in group at Lincoln Corner Skardu. 3. GRACE Access Alumni students with PUAN members and Delegate members from U.S. Embassy at Shangri-La Skardu 4. Access students and program coordinator receiving Maria Snarski, Regional English Language Office, U. S. Embassy at Skardu. 5. Access students on a cleaning venture of the most historic Kharpochko Fort Skardu (2019)

“ in just 2 months, the stone-and-steel-wire construction of 500-feet long, 4-feet wide, 4-feet high flood protection barrier was completed by the Khar Basho community

13

Construction of flood protection wall Basho Skardu - December 2010-June 2011

GRACE Association is participating in redevelopment and repair work following the 2010 flood disaster. This work is being undertaken in partnership with support organization JIPPO (NPO) Japan, and the affected communities.

Khar Basho, a village of 700 inhabitants in 78 households, is located in a hilly area some 53 kilometres from Skardu City and rich in natural forestation. It was one of the worst-affected communities. The recent floods have destroyed their agriculture assets, and with it, the village infrastructure. After the deluge, some 25 acres of cultivated land were destroyed, with hundreds of fruit and forest trees demolished, all seriously damaging the local economy.

Objectives: Mitigate the risk of the further devastation in the near future. Restore arable land for crops, fruit plantations and forest plants. Risk management seminars to help village communities prepare themselves against future disasters using awareness raising and capacity building.

Outputs: Community participatory planning, design and layout sessions, community participation in providing stone and free labour for the construction of the wall, excavation of the construction line, project monitoring in accordance with local practices traditionally used in village communities, linkage

development of village communities with other organizations working in the area on redevelopment of flood destructions.

Project wall design: A local traditional design was adopted since many villagers already had experience in this kind of construction and were able to apply their previous knowledge to the new task.

Wall Construction: In just two months, the village communities completed the stone-and-steel-wire construction of the 500-feet long, 4-feet wide, 4-feet high flood protection barrier.

Visitors of the Basho communities will see today a more relaxed population – a direct result of the successful completion of the 500-feet flood protection walls with the support of JIPPO (NPO) Japan and GRACE Association Pakistan.

Project turnaround: March 1 to April 30, 2011

Total project cost: PKR 727,000 (US\$8,655)

Contribution JIPPO Japan: PKR 267,000 (US\$3,179)

Contribution GRACE: PKR 460,000 (US\$5,476)

GRACE Association Pakistan extends its grateful thanks for JIPPO's caring donation. In helping implement this project, they have reduced the risk of further devastation in the near future, restored cultivable land and provided opportunities for local people to mobilize available resources and prepare disaster risk management plans for the years to come.

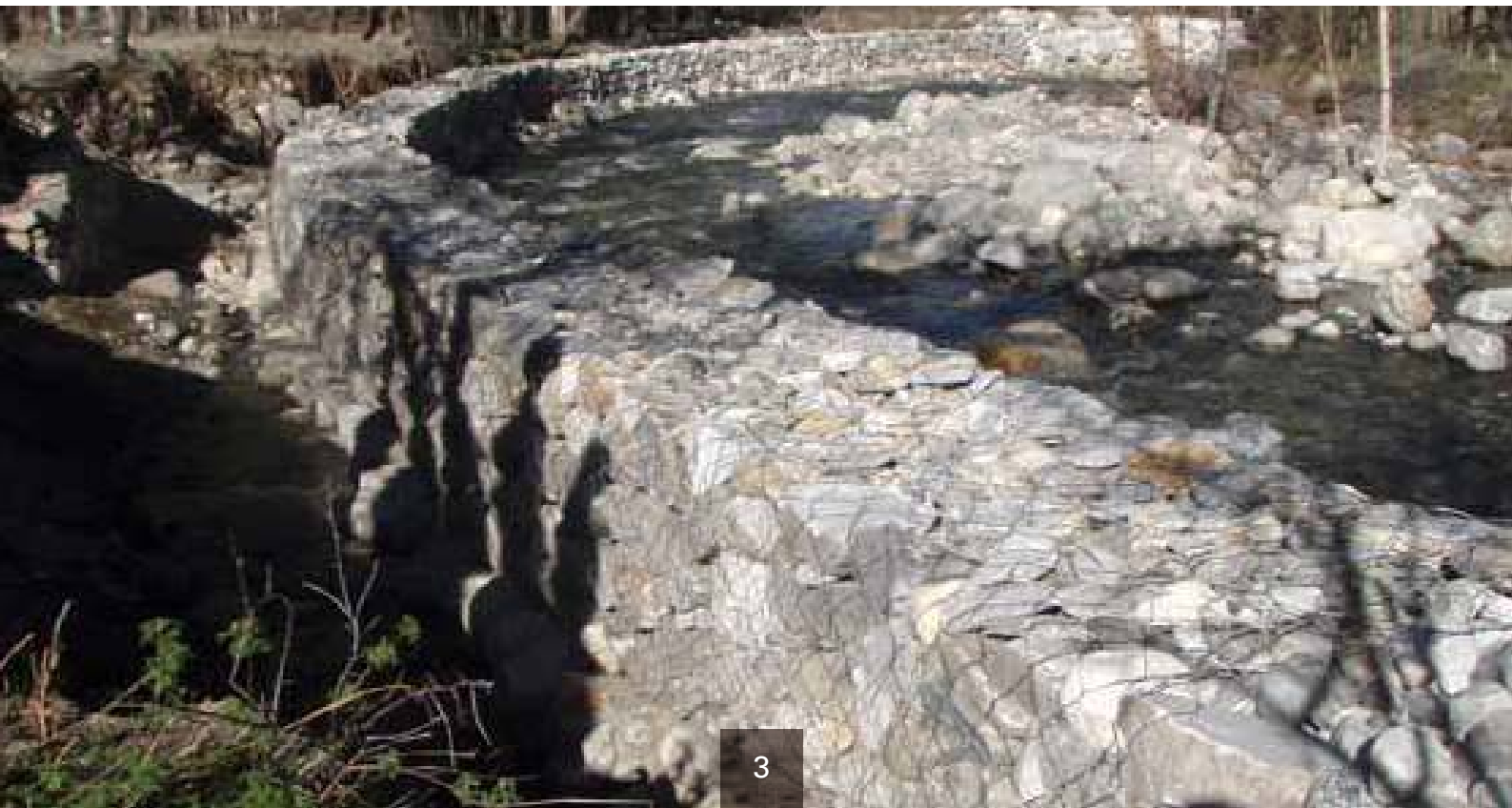
The Basho communities wish that JIPPO & GRACE will be able to help construction of the remaining 5000-foot flood protection wall in the near future.



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Flood protection wall. 1. The situation before the wall. 2, 3, 4. Images showing the construction of a flood protection to reduce the risks of natural disasters, Khar Basho Village Skardu. Project supported by JIPPO NPO Japan. 5. Villagers are now protected against floods.

“ the GRIP project aims to implement a community-based model of climate change mitigation through the sustainable use of natural resources in Skardu Baltistan

14

Mitigating climate change through community participation - A sustainable model in Skardu Baltistan - October 2010 - April 2013

On October 14, 2010, the Pakistan Ministry of the Environment, in collaboration with 'One UN', provided \$1.2 million to fund 24 environmental projects relating to solid waste management and sanitation, community-based natural resource management and grass-roots climate change mitigation initiatives. GRACE Association was one of the 24 awardees out of a nationwide submission total of 450 project proposals.

GRACE Association Chief Executive, Mr. Khadim Hussain, received the project award from the Federal Minister for the Environment, Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi. The Grass Roots Initiative Program (GRIP), a joint initiative of the Ministry of the Environment and the UN, aims to support sustainable development projects, connecting policies by government, aid agencies, NGOs, UN agencies and the private sector.

GRACE Association GRIP project aims to implement a community-based model of climate change mitigation through the sustainable use of natural resources at Skardu Baltistan. The project involves a solar pump to raise valuable reserves of subterranean water. This will enable horticulture, fruit and farming enterprises to flourish on what had been sandy and barren land.

The project has additionally introduced a non-timber forest product (NTFP) cooking stove, employing local

technology and resources. This involves the use of Kore stone which has the capacity to absorb large amounts of heat capable of being released over a period of many hours.

The added value comes by way of creating a tank which will collect water warmed without the need of fuel – an essential commodity for the people in Skardu during the severe winter weather.

The result will be a saving of local forestry, previously used for cooking and heating fuel in winter. Moreover, the project also raises awareness and develops local skills in the sustainable production, collection, processing and marketing of medicinal herbs which grow in profusion throughout the area.

Expected outputs: community mobilization; institutional strengthening of sustainable management of natural resources, and climate change mitigation (CCM).

The community-based model of CCM is introducing solar water harvesting, water conservation, and agro-forestry techniques. In addition, the project actively promotes NTFP-based enterprises and other appropriate energy efficient technologies relating to CCM.

Primary beneficiaries: three target village communities including Kwardu, Tormik and Churka Shigar in district Skardu.

Women are the major beneficiaries. GRACE Association believes that the benefits of this project will have spillover effects on neighboring villages which will be encouraged to replicate this model.



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GRIP project award. 1, 2, 3. A sustainable model of community-based climate change mitigation. A project carrying out by GRACE staff at Skardu. 4. Mr. John Fareedullah Afridi, Mr. Toshihiro Tanaka, Country Director UNDP Pakistan, and Mr. Kamran Qureshi, Program Director GRIP/Secretary Ministry of Environment, giving the GRIP award to Khadim Hussain (GRACE). 5. Fuel efficient kore cooking stove model introduced in the CCM Project.

“ the goal of our publications and website is to connect the grassroots community with NGOs, online volunteers, researchers, development teams and government professionals in Pakistan and the world

15

Publications & Website.

We have redesigned our brand identity. Why the change? We wanted to do three main things—make the communication simpler, deeper and more enjoyable for the reader.

The new identity aims for offering less. We have cut clutter. There are fewer embellishments. There is a consistent use of the logo, colours, typography, layout, imagery, and the same general message in all communications. We want to stand out from the crowd and be identified. Consistency is the base upon which we can build trust, and create long-lasting relations with our supporters, volunteers, grassroots, funding organizations, governments and other NGOs.

Website

Pages are now cleaner, with images that stand out more clearly to flag featured content. We have removed long lists of articles and replaced them with a compact selection. The navigation that runs on the top of the page, and throughout the site, is now completely visible right away, the key content placed “above the fold”. By rolling your cursor over the main categories of content you can reveal more detailed sub-categories.

Pages are now more content-readily accessible—combining greater simplicity with greater depth. We highlight our success stories, not only problems.

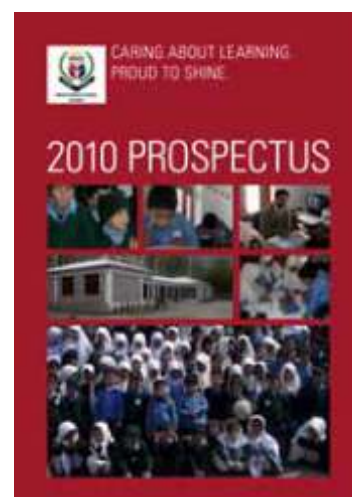
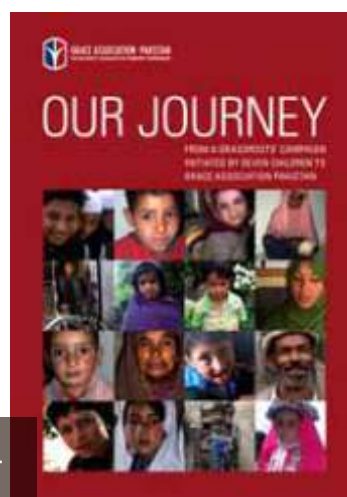
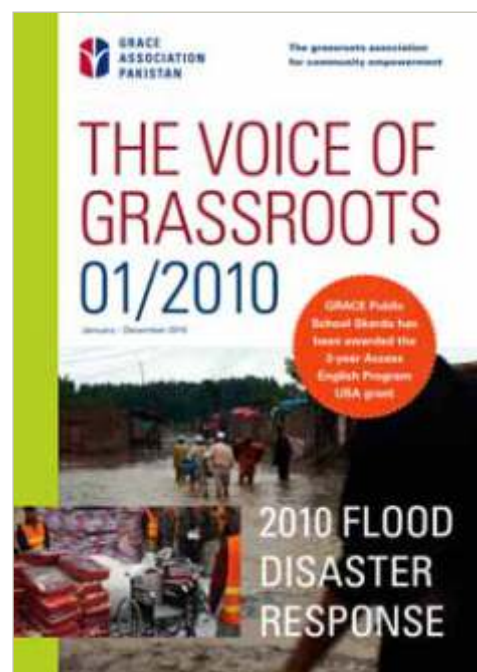
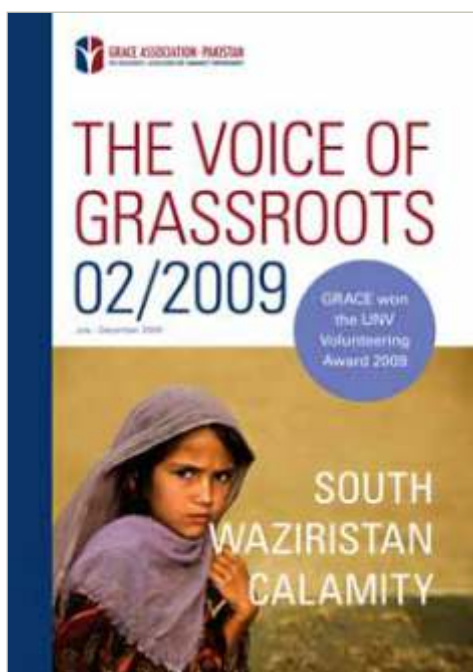
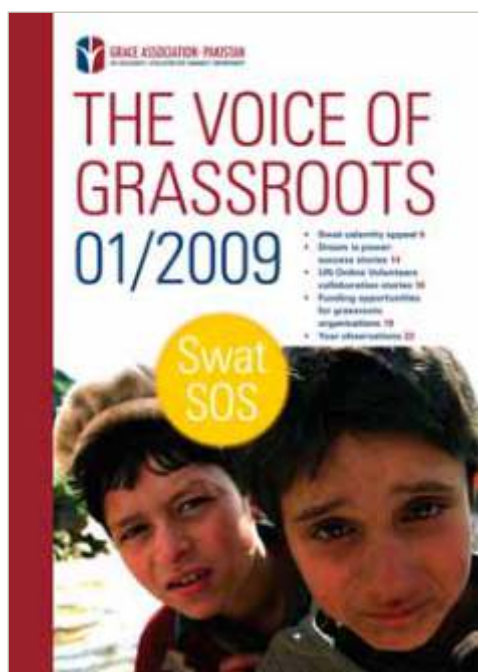
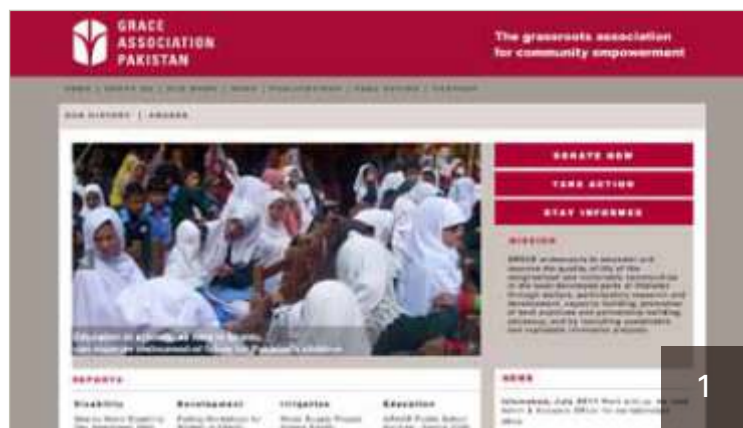
We have tried to make every page a more enjoyable experience. It shows not just what we select, but what readers, via feedback, are finding most interesting. Pages are regularly updated, so it will be worth returning to more often.

We aim to have more interaction. We won’t have got everything right in one go—this is work in progress. Submit your comments using our site feedback form. We welcome your views.

We are grateful to the team of online volunteers that enabled the redesign of our website. Writers, designers, and especially, our webmaster, Mrs Jagoda St.

E-newsletter, brochures and reports.

As with the website, simplicity, communication depth and experience are at the core of our organization’s literature (collateral) and newsletters. All our publications are connected by style and content.



Publications and website. 1 and 2. Totally revamped website, land page and inside page sample. 3. Our biannual e-newsletter, containing news, stories, funding opportunities, and testimonials. 4. Publications: new school building at Skardu, water supply project in Astana Skardu, the organization's brochure, and school's prospectus.

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The Echidna Global Scholars Program is a visiting fellowship hosted by the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution aiming at building the research and analytical skills of NGO leaders and academics.

16

Access & Quality Inclusive Education for All Children through Community School Networks 2012-14

The Echidna Global Scholars Program is a visiting fellowship hosted by the Center for Universal Education (CUE) at the Brookings Institution aiming at building the research and analytical skills of NGO leaders and academics who have substantial experience and ties to developing countries. Fellows spend four to six months at Brookings pursuing research on global education issues, with a specific focus on improving learning opportunities and outcomes for girls in the developing world. Upon completion of the fellowship period, CUE supports the scholars in implementing an action plan that applies their new skills and expertise in the developing country where they have demonstrated substantial ties.

GRACE Chief Executive, Khadim Hussain got selected as one of the three CUE Brookings Echidna Global Scholars out of 534 applicants in 2012. He chose to study how to foster inclusive education including girls and children with disabilities in public and private schools in Pakistan.

His research found community-school networking as a catalyst approach to foster inclusive education in remote communities where GRACE Association works. Upon completion of his fellowship, he presented new knowledge and skills learned during the fellowship with GRACE colleagues and other stakeholders including academia, Government Education department Gilgit-Baltistan and Skardu.

For implementation of the post research action plan, GRACE Association staff members involved and conducted a baseline survey in 53 rural villages in

Skardu to assess the situation of inclusive girl education, needs, and prevalence of children with disabilities in the villages and enrolled children with disabilities in public and private schools.

To collect baseline data, GRACE trained 40 Lady Health Workers. They were familiar with communities in rural villages. The LHWs collected data about in and out of school children specifying girls, children with disabilities, and boys. They also collected data on family demography as well as about school annual enrollments, available and missing facilities and teachers. The collected data among around 80,000 population living in 53 rural villages, there were 80 primary schools having an enrollment of 14,317 students with 65% boys, 34% girls and 1% children with disabilities. The collected data also showed that there are 10,953 out of school children with 36% boys, 55% girls and 9% children with disabilities with mixed gender.

Using these data, GRACE Association launched an extensive campaign to sensitize the stakeholder communities including the government department of education, parents, teachers, students and community volunteers. GRACE activated some 100 grassroots community volunteers for this cause. They worked hard with GRACE staff for enrollment of out of school children, making existing schools accessible, and carrying out policy advocacy for making government schools accessible and friendly for all children.

One of the prime components of this campaign and project was formation of community-school networks in a cluster of 15-20 villages organizing the local community stakeholders and creating a collective work environment in the schools. It is because when



Brookings' Echidna Fellowship. 1. Khadim Hussain, CEO GRACE presenting his research paper at the Brookings Annual Research Symposium with his fellow scholars Urvashi Sahni, India and Abraha Asfaw, Ethiopia and Dr. Rebecca Winthrop, Director CUE Brookings (2012) 2. Girls children learning happily at GRACE school. 3. CEO GRACE in a panel discussion on inclusive girl education . 4. Khadim Hussain, presenting his research paper to Nisar Abbas, President Print and & Electronic Media, Gilgit-Baltistan, Assistant Commissioner Skardu and others (2013) 5. Khadim Hussain, in a conversation on inclusive education with Principals USWA School System and Educationists Dr. Zakir Hussain, Mr. Amanullah and Mr. Ali Ahmad Jan (2015)

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600 out of school children enrolled in private and public schools in Skardu during the project period.

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schools are run through community participation, they bear more fruits, community and parents own the school and take part in their children education, supervise teacher's performance and share their feedbacks and resources for school improvement. To further its endeavors, GRACE conducted meetings with representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to build a partnership for launching an Inclusive Education Program in Gilgit-Baltistan. The JICA invited Khadim Hussain, Chief Executive GRACE /Echidna Fellow to be the Guest Speaker and Facilitator for JICA's inclusive education awareness and capacity building programs in Khyber-Pukhtonkhawah province of Pakistan.

GRACE also organized two awareness seminars to raise awareness on the needs and importance of inclusive education especially for girls with disabilities.

Advocacy meetings conducted with the Secretary Education, Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad and shared the collected data with analysis of needs and requested permission to launch an inclusive education program through community-school networks. The education secretariat appreciated our efforts and consented to carry on GRACE efforts on this important agenda. However, it seems government departments is hesitant to issue anything in writing with unknown reason while inclusive education is a burning issue where public private partnership is essentially required.

GRACE is continuing its efforts within its capacity and providing inclusive quality education at GRACE Public School Skardu and four public primary schools. 600 out of school children enrolled in private and public schools in Shagari Khur, Shagari Kalan and Kowardu Skardu Gilgit-Baltistan during the project period.

In some of our project target schools, children drop-out rates reduced by 2% as per schools' reports. With the support from organizations and individuals and the communities, GRACE Association will continue its endeavor ensuring access to primary education for all children in its serving communities.

17

Improving Enrollment and Learning Outcomes for at Al-Zahra Girls School Kwardu Skardu 2013

Australia has strong interests in development of Pakistan and showing this commitment supporting Pakistan to build economic prosperity, and promote sustainable, equitable development.

The Australian High Commission (AHC) in Islamabad supports Pakistan working in partnerships with local organization to improving education outcomes and increasing access to education as one of the important challenges for Pakistan's human development.

GRACE Association Pakistan implemented an educational improvement project in collaboration with the Direct Aid Program (DAP) of the AHC Islamabad in 2013.

This project aimed at improving enrollment and learning outcomes for girl students at a community run school in a rural village, Muntazarabad Kwardo, Skardu. GRACE constructed a 14 x 28 feet Study Hall for providing a friendly learning space for girl students and the community to gather and discuss village educational and development issues. This hall is now using for 24/7 by the students and village communities for learning sharing. The project organized a week long teachers training



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Al-Zahra Girl School Project. 1 & 2. Teachers training participants at Al-Zahra Girls School. 3. Newly constructed study hall for girl education, library and community center. 4. The old study center which is now replaced with a friendly and accessible learning center for a ll children and for the community. 5. The study hall is under construction to promote girl education in collaboration with the Australian High Commission Islamabad



GRACE constructed a 14 x 28 feet Study Hall for providing friendly learning space for girls and the community to gather and discuss village educational and development issues. This hall is now using for 24/7 by the students and village communities for learning sharing.

for 27 teachers (60% female) from Al-Zahra and neighboring schools in Kwardo valley.

Project also conducted health and hygiene sessions for the students and their parents and distributed hygiene kits among the school students. In the health and hygiene session more than 100 women participated.

At this event a prominent religious Scholar addressed the women highlighting the importance of health and hygiene for all family members and girl education for the society in the light of Quran-o-Sunnah. This type of speech by religious figures works a lot in rural villages to increase enrollment and retention for girls.

Our project addressed some of the basic educational problems faced by Al-Zahra Girl's School girl students by providing:

Essential training to 27 teachers in order to equip them with techniques and skills for engaging students in modern, interactive teaching methods;

Improved school learning environment through renovation of existing school building, construction of a study hall and four (4) toilets for 150 students and the school teachers;

Increased enrolment rate of girls in the school by 10 percent in the following years;

Enhanced the capacity of 10 members of the School Management Committee by training them in some school development planning and management skills.

The village communities comprising 2250 men, women and children and GRACE Association are grateful to the AHC -DAP for this invaluable educational support for girl education in deserving areas such as Skardu Pakistan.

18

Hygienic Hand Pump Water Supply Scheme Nazimabad Kwardu Skardu 2013 -14

Around 64% of Pakistanis are deprived of clean drinking water, reports by the World Bank. (source: PakistanToday - March 22, 2019). Poor people in the country is facing immeasurable socioeconomic problems countrywide. The current government is keen to tackle mainstream socio-political affairs of the country. However, there are some staggering issues that need immediate attention include drinking water, girl education and livelihood opportunities for people at the grassroots level. These issues are needed to tackle local communities and organizations joining hands and mobilizing possible resources. In particular, rural villages in district Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan are more affected by the severe cold climatic challenges, resource scarcity and deep poverty prevalence in that part of our country.

Nazimabad village located at the bank of Indus River 17 KMs away from Skardu town is one of the villages in the Karakoram Mountains facing acute water related problems. Whole day activities of the village women and girls are to haul water from a nearby pond or the Indus River for the families. Traditionally women and girls are responsible for this duty in Baltistan. This tradition and lack of water near their door steps make women life more miserable and prevent girl children go to school. In addition, the villagers are compelled to use the contaminated water from river and ponds and they suffer in variety of water borne diseases affecting health of the community men, women and children. Ultimately the health expenditure and education of girls are



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Hygiene Water Supply Project: 1 & 2 images showing pre-project situations in village Nazimabad Skardu. 3. GRACE & JIPPO Hygiene Handpump Water Supply Scheme is completed and children happy and thanking the supporting organizations (2013). 4. Khadim Hussain, CEO GRACE and Mr. Morio from Japan with village elders at the project inauguration /stone laying with community elders. 5. Ms. Takagi San visited the project village for Evaluation of the project (2016)



Reduced the amount of time young girls were spending on fetching water for their families thereby increasing the time they started spending in to learn knowledge and skills for their life.

severely affected. Therefore, GRACE Association Pakistan upon application of the Nazimabad village community requested JIPPO Japan for a Hand Pump Water Supply Scheme for Nazimabad villagers.

JIPPO Japan accepted GRACE request and we implemented a Hygienic Hand Pump Water Supply Scheme in the village and helped the village community by installing 14 communal hand pumps by digging 50-60 feet deep underground nearer clusters of houses and carrying out a health and hygiene behavioral change training workshops by an expert Mr. Morio from Japan and GRACE Project Coordinator Ms. Sehrish Bashir.

This project collaboration resulted in achieving following objectives:

- Provided safe drinking to 500 men, women and children in the project village;
- Reduced burden of water-borne disease on the community which resulted in reduced health expenditure for the beneficiary families by 50 percent as they reported a year later; Increase availability of time for the village women so they may spend some leisure time, rest and do some other work or income generation activities such as knitting and sewing;
- Reduced the amount of time young girls were spending on fetching water for their families thereby increasing the time they started spending to learn knowledge and skills for their life;
- Empowered the village women by raising their awareness on hygienic problems, women rights to get an education for their girls by providing women space, environment, skills and confidence to participate in the village water and sanitation management committee and health and hygiene improvement campaigns.

These goals have been achieved by organizing, training and ensuring their full participation in project planning, implementation, supervision and setting effective measures for project sustainability.

This project was evaluated by the supporting organization, JIPPO Japan after three years of completion and found satisfactory.

Villagers do the required repairing and maintenance of the project collecting tariff fee from the villagers.

19

Global IT Challenge For Youth with Disabilities 2016 -2019

The Global IT Challenge (GITC) is a capacity building project helping Youth with Disabilities (YWD) overcome their limitations and challenge themselves for a better future. It offers access to Information Communication Technology (ICT) and improve their ability to participate while setting ICT agenda related to disabilities and boosting up international cooperation exchange. This program is being run by the Rehabilitation International (RI) Korea in collaboration with the Korean Government, LG Company and other supporters. GRACE Association Pakistan being a member of the RI International is organizing delegation and participating in the GITC on invitation from RI Korea since 2016.

GRACE in consultation with the Directorate General of Special Education (DGSE), Ministry of Education, Govt. of Pakistan organized a delegation of 4 youth with disabilities and participated in the GITC during November 26th-28th, 2019 in Busan, South Korea and



Global IT Challenge: 1. Pakistan's GITC Delegation Members: Youth with Disabilities to Busan Korea - Pakistan 2. Pakistan GITC 2019 delegation participating in the eCreative challenge. 3. Mr. Waqas Ramazan won the Best eTool Challenge (Visual) Award & Gold Medal. 4. Mr. Khadim Hussain, CEO GRACE and Ms. Anika Bano participating the Inclusion Forum. 5. Pakistani youth with disabilities Narjis Bano, Waqas Ramazan, Aleeha Kashif and Imad Uddin presenting their eCreative challenge preparation. (2019)

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The Global IT Challenge (GITC) is a capacity building project helping Youth with Disabilities (YWD) overcome their limitations and challenge themselves for a better future.

won the 2019 GITC eTool the Best Challenger Award (visual) and Gold Medal for Pakistan. Every year, more than 20 countries and civil society organizations make efforts to bring youth with disabilities in the GITC through IT training and preliminary national competition. In this way, GITC is becoming a unique and successful international event. GITC is now on the way to an internationally renowned IT competition participated by countries in Europe, Africa and Middle East beyond Asia-Pacific. This kind of programs increasing attention to youth with disabilities and they are pursuing their dream and challenge their future in communication with the world through IT. However, in spite of their dreams and challenges, still developing countries such as Pakistan needs take special interest and encourage such programs at the government and national levels so that conducive environment can be created for youth with different types of disabilities to be participate and change their living conditions. GRACE a civil society organization will continue its efforts to help Youth with Disabilities in Pakistan and participate in programs such as the 'Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities'. GRACE will also take endeavors to get attention of the Government of Pakistan and Disability Movement Leaders in our country to come forward and host such events in Pakistan proving that we are a peaceful, development loving and inclusive living friendly nation for all our citizens regardless of any ability, gender, religion and or any other discrimination thus showing our commitment to leaving no one behind and by reflecting the trend of 4th industrial revolution, different disability and culture, and national needs. GRACE is thankful to RI Korea for their invitation, hospitality and the DGSE MoE Pakistan for their encouraging cooperation for this program. We are looking forward to continue working with you all in the time to come for the future of people with disabilities voluntarily as usual in our country.

20

K -2 Cleanup Expedition 2017

Gilgit Baltistan is home to more than 20 peaks over 20,000 feet (6,100m), including K-2, the second highest mountain in the world. Other well-known peaks include Masherbrum—also known as K1—Broad Peak, Hidden Peak, Gasherbrum II, Gasherbrum IV and Chogolisa in Khaplu Valley. GRACE Association Pakistan organized K-2 Cleanup Expedition in Aug-September 2017 in order to highlight the Climate Change issue and raise awareness among locals and foreigners to keep the environment clean. Baltoro Glacier is the centerpiece of Pakistan's majestic Karakoram Mountains and it is the single exposure to Pakistan's mountain environments for most visitors. The vast majority of Pakistani and foreign tourists who come to trek and climbed in Pakistan visit the Baltoro Glacier area and is heavily trafficked by the human and other mountain workers who accompany with trekking and expedition groups. The Glacier environment has suffered heavily from this high user impacts. Numerous stakeholders are working hard to mitigate the environmental damage on the Baltoro and their efforts are to be lauded. Despite the good work of these stakeholders and the progress that was being made, the task is immense and there remains more work to be done.

This initiative was implemented as a joint program supported by the Education & Culture Affairs U.S Embassy Islamabad, Alumni Outreach Program & GRACE Association Pakistan for engaging youth volunteers for positive role to keep the mountains environment clean engaging local, national and international volunteers with participants from Baltistan, Hunza, Karachi and Lahore.



- K2 Cleanup Expedition:** 1.Wazir Shamshad Hussain from GRACE leading the Cleaningup Expedition team members at K2 Basecamp.
2. National and International Alumni participants of the K2 Cleanup Expedition. International participants are from China and Tajikistan.
3. Event banner with brand logos of partners. 4.The wastes and dirts on way to K-2 Basecamp which were cleaned by the expedition members.
- 5.The wastes and rubbish collected by participants and disposed safely.

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K2 Cleanup Expedition sent a strong message to the world that it should be every expeditions' primary responsibility to keep these areas pure for future generations. Come and enjoy our awe-enjoying mountains. Leave nothing but foot-prints..

The K2 Cleanup Project achieved a unique objective of collecting and removing all of the garbage's of plastic canes and animal wastes between the last village of the Braldo Valley and Concordia to K2 Basecamp. This endeavor was a complement for other cleanup efforts that took place along the Baltoro Glacier in 2016 and built on the efforts to maximize the positive impacts of previous cleanup works. The garbage collected and transported by donkeys included bottles, tin packs, animal carcasses, plastic bags, discarded clothes and shoes. "We collected those items during the journey from Askoli to Concordia.

Project team, volunteers and participants selected from local, national and international exchange Alumni members including GRACE Access Program Alumni volunteers. They were invited by soliciting applications from a wide range of potential participants throughout Pakistan and Internationally. Two program exchange members from China, two from Tajikistan and six members from the down cities of Pakistan thus total sixty five porters participated in the K2 Cleanup Campaign.

This campaign cleaned K2 Base Camp its trekking routes and Askoli villages from all type of solid and non-biological wastes by involving local, national and International volunteers. GRACE Association also believed this campaign contributes to ecotourism and promotes responsible tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan. All participants worked hard for two-weeks and collected almost 2000 KGs of wastes which were disposed at the Central Karakorum National Park ecofriendly machine.

Project adapted a multifaceted communications strategy for each event to highlight the importance of

the project and enhance visibility tailoring to match each project needs and objectives in two broad categories including community outreach and branding and marketing. You can watch this project documentary visiting www.expeditionasia.com.pk

K2 Cleanup Expedition 2017 sent a strong message to the world that it should be every expeditions' primary responsibility to keep these areas pure for future generations. Come and enjoy our awe-enjoying mountains. Leave nothing but foot-prints. Our goal was to remove as much rubbish as possible and to set examples for later groups to follow through this K2 Expedition at Base Camp.

21

Vulnerable Street Children Basic Education Project Bari Imam & Alipur Islamabad 2017 -2019

GRACE Association Pakistan in partnerships with the Global Fund for Children (GFC) USA is helping children and youth get enrolled in existing public or private schools and continue their primary education in economically vulnerable communities in the least developed suburb of rural Islamabad i.e. Bari Imam and Alipur villages since 2017. GRACE is endeavoring to contribute in achieving the goal of building a world where all children and youth are safe, strong and valued.

Fighting for child's right to get an education including girls and children with disabilities is GRACE core values. Therefore, GRACE from its inception in 2007 has been requesting GFC to partner and support vulnerable children education in Pakistan because



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Vulnerable Children Education: 1. & 2. Vulnerable family women and children struggling to get free foods from the Bari Imam Shrine. 3. Ms. Kulsoom Khan, Director, Global Fund for Children for Asia, visited Amal School in 2018. 4. Amal School Children and staff with Khadim Hussain chief executive GRACE and Ms. Sonia Nadeem, Teachers Trainer. 5. Children enrolled and encouraged in an enrollment campaign ceremony at Amal Model School & Academy.



teachers attended in a week long training where they learned lesson planning, modern pedagogy, creating inclusive teaching environment and special care for slow learners.

GFC supports through micro grants but they focus development of the partner grassroots organization in a range of organizational capacity. It took 10 years for GRACE to build this partnership with GFC and finally started helping vulnerable children education in Bari Imam in 2017.

GRACE Association selected Bari Imam for two reasons: A) GRACE Association has its registered office in Blue Area which is very near to Bari Imam. B) GRACE conducted a survey in Bari Imam to identify and assess needs of out of school and street children on request of some community volunteers from Bari Imam. The survey data were so sensitizing. The survey data revealed that the Amal School community comprising 80 families with around 587 population including men women and children of all ages with an average 7 house hold members which by any standard is extremely high. This high number of family members directly affecting the economics of the household as majority of surveyed families have no employed or earning individuals for the family except sometimes daily wage laboring and or getting foods from the Bari Imam Shrine for free. The heads of the families were under intense pressure to sustain the family, hence sending children to school was not their priority. The survey data showed that among 274 school age children 39% were not attending schools. The main reason for these children mainly girls not going to school was that the parents cannot afford sending them to school due to financial limitations. Another sensitizing survey data was about highest education in the surveyed families. Only 4 men among the surveyed population had a Bachelor degree. This data shows the disadvantaged and deprivation of this community. There were only 9.6% families among 80 having a permanent job for one or two persons. The rest 93.4% are daily wage labors. These families suffer when the person earning for the

family fall sick. They often face food shortage and all family members have no choice but to rush to the

Shrine of Bari Imam for alms. Survey data also revealed that only 3 families out of 80 had women who are earning little income for the family. The average earnings of those women are Rs.6,666/- This fact is quite alarming which makes it so evident that the financial situation could change for the better if only more women join the work force even if it is on a part-time basis. The surveyed families living in Bari Imam found from diverse backgrounds i.e. among the 80 surveyed families many belonged to Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, Pathans, Potohari, Punjabis, Saraikis and Urdu speaking.

It is also unfortunate that Bari Imam is the neighboring community to the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan Houses as well adjacent to the Diplomatic Enclave where all Embassies, Humanitarian and Donor Organizations have their offices. But living conditions of the majority families show this settlement like a 15th century village. There are hundreds of children spending their time in streets instead of schools. Their parents have their own stories of poverty and economic vulnerabilities. There is no concept of reproductive health and family planning in families despite having many Lady Health Workers there.

Actually, until and unless the Government of Pakistan works for change in this community no one else can bring any change. However, something is better than nothing. Having this belief, GRACE Association started identifying and enrolling street children in existing schools.

So far GRACE project team identified 123 school age children in Bari Imam. They all enrolled and going to schools now in Bari Imam, Muslim Colony and Alipur school and parents carry on their children education



Vulnerable Children Education: 1. Teachers training participants from Amal Academy and neighboring schools Bari Imam 2017
 2. School Leaders Capacity Building Workshops from KIPS School Alipur, Fatima Standard and Muslim Colony Schools.
 3. Teachers training conducted 2018 for GRACE-GFC project partner school teachers.

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GRACE is endeavoring to contribute in achieving the goal of building a world where all children and youth are safe, strong and valued.

villages in Islamabad. GRACE-GFC project pays the school a sum of Rs.500/- as tuition fee per month for six months as an incentive. Later on, the partner on self help basis. Enrollment in schools, daily routines, hygiene, habits, behavior and foods have been changed and improvements noted at school and home reported during parents-teachers meeting. Especially the children in rural villages in the suburb of Islamabad have been used to spending much of their time in the street or sent to work in automobile repairing workshops or hotels. Girls are usually sent to work in rich family homes where often they become victim of child abuses. Kids are never safe in streets as streets are full of mafia. There exists extreme forms of violence against children, including sexual exploitation and trafficking. The worst forms of child labour are common in Pakistan. Parents also reported that their kids at school is now performing better and eagerly go to school regularly. To improve learning outcomes for these and other children in the partner schools, GRACE-GFC project organized Teachers Training Workshops on basic teaching skills. In 2019, 20 teachers from KIPS and Fatima Standard Schools attended in a week long teachers training where they learned lesson planning, modern pedagogy, creating inclusive teaching environment and special care for slow learners. 90 percent of teachers were attending any such training for the first time. The training helped them improve their teaching and enhanced their confidence level. Teachers were able to teach their students more effectively by setting goals against their teaching and assessing the productivity. Resultantly students learning outcome scores improved by 42 percent and dropout rates reduced by 30 percent compared to previous years.

These training workshops helped improve academic

performance of the children. Training participated teachers shared academic performance in term of periodic learning outcome assessments. School reports show that students learning outcomes at our partner schools improved compare to previous years. In addition, health and hygiene conditions of the school children improved resultantly their attendance improved by 68 percent compare to previous years. All these indicate improvement in the lives of children we are serving.

22

GRACE English Works Program Baltistan 2018 -2019

GRACE Association is endeavoring to empower and improve the lives of economically disadvantaged and marginalized communities by implementing sustainable social welfare and development projects and programs in the least developed parts such as Khaplu, Skardu and Gilgit in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. Combining best practices in social mobilization, voluntarism, advocacy and partnerships building GRACE programs follow a set of strategic nationally and globally.

interventions in equitable community development, gender empowerment, inclusive education, diversity, participatory planning and local resource mobilization.

GRACE English Access Programs provided to over 1800 adolescents with gender equality since 2010 to date. All Access graduates and Alumni members are recognized as the progressive youth showing improved academic performances and rendering



English Works Program 2018: 1. & 2. Enrollment test and interviews conducted at GRACE School, over 900 candidates participated. 3. EW girl students at GRACE Public School & College Skardu posing for group picture. 4. EW students visited AKRSP ,Tourism Department Skardu and Allama Iqbal Open Univesity to learn about how they hire people and what kind of preparation and skills they need to apply for jobs at AKRSP, as Tutor for AIOU and potential opportunities in tourism.



GRACE English Works! Participants are trained in communication skills, social media, and networking so that they learn how to make their future bright and beneficial for themselves and others locally, nationally and globally.

community services for positive change in their respective villages.

Likewise, GRACE initiated GRACE English Works! Program since 2018 aiming at equipping our youth age 17-25 with effective communication and critical thinking skills through meaningful interaction, cooperative learning strategies, interest-appropriate activities in the real-life contexts. Additionally, English Works! seeks to prepare students for conversational English language skills with native and non-native speakers of English through a variety of experiential learning activities. Like the English Access Program, GRACE English Works! (EW) Program is supported by the Regional English Language Office, U.S. Embassy Islamabad.

English Works program classes are conducted for 2-3 hours, during 2:00pm to 5:00 pm for three days a week and completes 240 fixed program hours during a six months period. Afternoon classes are conducted to enable GRACE hire qualified teachers available after their regular duties. GRACE EW program provided to 17-25 years youth from economically disadvantaged families in Shigar and Skardu districts during the year 2018-19 and so far 200 male and female youth equally graduated the six monthly programs successfully.

EW program teachers are trained in teaching English and 21st century skills by the Regional English Language Office, U.S Embassy Islamabad. These trained teachers perform well in teaching and make learning fun for all participants.

GRACE English Works Program also organized enrichment activities at least once in a week choosing a topic or theme relevant to a business and industry

such as, communication and presentation skills improvement practices; Team building; Problem solving; Planning and organizing; Self-Management; Introduction to adaptable technologies; How to write a business plan; How to write resumes; Self-assessment; How to find a relevant and reliable job online; Job interview practices; Career Planning; Introduction to business accounting; Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery; Finding business opportunities and government contracts; Crime Prevention; Customer Service; Cyber Security for Small Business; Entrepreneurship for women; Financing options for private schooling; How to prepare a loan package; Early Childhood care and development programs, Legal requirements for small businesses; How to win customers satisfaction; Pricing model for businesses; Social media marketing; Strategic planning; Critical Thinking; and, An introduction to importing and exporting products and goods; etc.

GRACE English Works! Participants are trained in communication skills, social media, and networking so that they learn how to make their future bright and beneficial for themselves and others locally, nationally and globally.

23

Access Teachers Summer Training Workshops 2018

Developing human resources through English language programs and ensuring access for economically disadvantaged people is a common objective of all development organizations because such capacity building and human resource development programs help empower communities in the country.



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English Works Program 2018-19: 1. & 2. Jarold Frank, RELO, & Mr. Abudul Majeed, English Programs Manager, U.S. Embassy distributing graduation certificates at GRACE EW Graduation Ceremony 2018. 3. EW students group after Graduation Ceremony. 4. GRACE EW Program male students at Abruzzi School Shigar Center with their Instructors. 5. EW students on a field trip to Hotel Serena Shigar Fort to learn hoteling skills and job opportunities there.

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I visited several places from Karachi to Skardu in Pakistan. All places are wonderful in this country. People are so cooperative and peaceful. Pakistan is naturally beautiful. I enjoyed serving in Pakistan. Maria Snarski

To achieve this common goal GRACE Association Pakistan in collaboration with the Regional English Language Office (RELO), U.S. Embassy in Pakistan organized 'Access Teachers & Alumni Writers Summer Workshop 2018' at Islamabad for over 100 participants participating from throughout Pakistan.

GRACE Association provided quality event management services for this program and facilitated the trainers and participants with all required training materials and equipment including organization of relevant activities such as social excursions, cultural and team building events in addition to the opening and closing ceremonies.

GRACE aimed at building its own staff capacity as well by organizing such events at national level and achieve shared objectives of human resource development in the country.

The Access Teachers & Alumni Writers Summer Workshop organized at Islamabad Serena Hotel during July 29 - August 8, 2018. The RELO Pakistan hired a team of outstanding Language Specialists as trainers and mentors from U.S and Pakistan. They conducted sessions for participants in three different groups including two group of teachers and a group of alumni writers. Sessions started at 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM every day. Some times after evening sessions also conducted.

GRACE Association deployed experienced program staff for implementation of this workshop. The project staff made all required arrangements as per guidelines and requirements. GRACE engaged travel agents and lodging service providers to ensuring timely flight reservations and better accommodation services for all participants.

GRACE project staff established an administrative office at the hotel and they always been ready and available 24 hours to facilitate participants and trainers at the training venue. The Serena Hotel management was unable to provide three training halls consecutively for 10 days as they had many pre scheduled events. Therefore, training halls needed to shift in different halls every other day. It was a challenging task but GRACE project staff accepted this challenge and made the workshop successful.

Maria Snarski, the Regional English Language Officer (RELO) said that, 'organizing such a huge event at the end of her posting from Pakistan was an exciting experience. She also said, "I visited several places from Karachi to Skardu in Pakistan. All places are wonderful in this country. People are so cooperative and peaceful. Pakistan is naturally beautiful. I enjoyed serving in Pakistan." She appreciated all English Access Microscholarship Program Teachers and students for their keen interests in the Access and other programs offered by the Regional English Language Office in Pakistan. She thanked and appreciated GRACE Association for being a good partner for providing English language programs and for collaborating to organize such workshops.

The workshop facilitators and English Language Specialists David Malatesta, Sakeena Ali, Kathleen Saville and Muhammad Rashid shared their ideas, welcomed the participants and said that, they are very optimistic and happy to work with Access Teachers. They appreciated the willingness of all participants. Participants expressed their thankfulness to the U.S. Embassy for investing in English language education and professional development of teachers and youth in Pakistan.

Workshop participants enjoyed the excursion and



Access Teachers Summer Training Workshop 2018: 1. & 2. Kathryn Crockart, the Acting Deputy Chief of U.S. Mission Pakistan with Trainers and Shamshad Hussain from GRACE hosting the closing ceremony. 3. Access Alumni Writers with Kathryn Crockart and Workshop Trainers: David Malatesta, Sakeena Ali, Kathleen Saville and Muhammad Rashid with the workshop participants. 4. Access Teachers in the training workshop sessions (2018) 5. The Regional English Language Office Maria Snarski, English Programs Manager, Mr. Abdul Majeed and Regional Consulate Coordinators Aisha Amanullah, Muhammad Iqbal and Syed Mudassir Shah posed for a picture

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Pakistan is fortunate to have talented teachers and their efforts inspire and broaden minds and develop careers skills that will serve Pakistan's future professional.” said Kathryn Crockart, the Acting Deputy Chief of U.S. Mission Pakistan

natural beauty of the hilly and lush green areas in Islamabad and Muree during their field trip. Ayubia PipelineTrack was a new experience for many.

At the end of the workshop, participants shared their feedbacks. One of the teacher participants said, “Now- I feel that I am professionally groomed and I will use every possible activity in the class that I learned here!!” An Access Alumni participant, Muhammad Usama said, “I have learnt critical thinking and how to show not tell your ideas.” Sufyan said, “It benefitted me to put down my thoughts in an innovative way.” Another participant said, “to be honest when I woke up this morning every gesture that I was doing wanted to show it somewhere in the world.” Waseem shared his learning in writing that, “How to short a story/paragraph, how to make it interesting.” Faizan said, “In literacy circles, I learned how to find hidden messages from text while reading.” Mishal Khan said, “I’m now much able to show and convey my message through writing.” Abdul Samad said, “This training literally enhanced my writing skills which will help me out in my teaching profession as well.” A cultural & team building event has been organized on the last evening of the workshop. Participants hailing from different regions, locations and institutions exchanged cultural experiences and cultural gifts and strengthened their ties as a family. Such events help participants boost trust, enhance communication and build a joined positive culture of collective learning and sharing. All participants said, they enjoyed learning during all the training days. “Pakistan is fortunate to have talented teachers and their efforts inspire and broaden minds and develop careers skills that will serve Pakistan's future professional.” said Kathryn Crockart, the Acting Deputy Chief of U.S. Mission to Islamabad, Pakistan at the closing ceremony.

24

Upgradation of GRACE Public School Skardu

In 2007, GRACE School, started in a small old community home in Astana Skardu to educate girls and children with disabilities. Hundreds of internally displaced populations due to war between India and Pakistan in the border areas of Olding, Brolmo Kharmang and Gultari are displaced and settled in Skardu. They had no school near their door steps. The GRACE school was the first and only school that time which gradually grown into a dynamic learning community with its own building in 2009. With time the new building was also unable to accommodate increasing enrollment demands. So, GRACE Association in collaboration with a philanthropist Dr. Muhammad Taufique constructed Library and Science Lab rooms. He donated a sum of USD 10,000.00. In addition, GRACE Association constructed two more additional classrooms at the 2nd floor of the admin block on self help basis during 2014 -16.

GRACE school education board is working hard to improve the infrastructure of the school as well as the academics. GRACE School is affiliated with the Federal Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education Islamabad. Now, the school is providing education up to Class 10 mainly girls from economically disadvantaged and displaced families. GRACE plans to further upgrade this school and provide education to its students up to university level in the time to come.

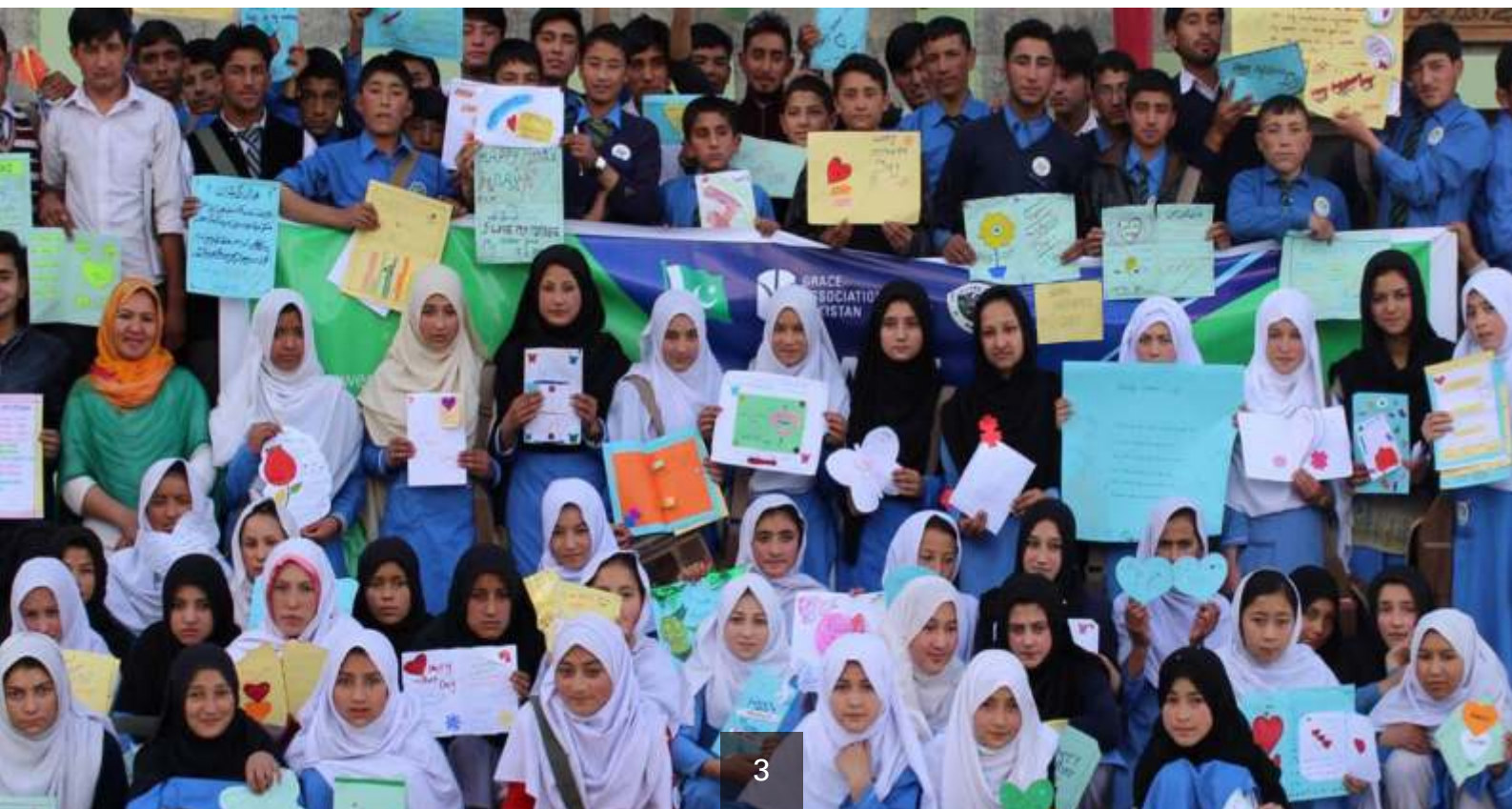
GRACE school has a good reputation in Baltistan and well known for providing holistic learning and development opportunities for youth. Our school places a strong focus on student academic progress and achievements. The medium of instructions are English delivering curriculum based on the Oxford syllabus up to elementary level and follows Federal Board curriculum and syllabus for secondary and higher classes. Our students obtain good scores significantly beyond the minimum expectations required by the federal examination.



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GRACE School Skardu: 1. GRACE Public School English Works girl students with Khadim Hussain, CEO GRACE Association; 2. GPS boys celebrating Naurooz, Festival with local Balti Caps. 3. & 4. GRACE School girl students celebrating Girls Day and demanding higher education for them. 5. Students in classrooms.

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Kwardo is a drought hit valley with vast barren land in Gilgit-Baltistan where people lack access to clean drinking and irrigation water. Glacier Grafting will help local communities in having access to clean drinking water as well as water for irrigation and forestry.

board. In the 2019, 60 per cent of students achieved A+, A and distinct grades. This is the result of partnership between the school, the students, parents, the government education department and the community.

GRACE school students are encouraged to participate in the extensive array of opportunities which exist beyond the classroom. Opportunities are provided to participate in debating, sport and drama and GRACE school is the center for English Access and Works Program in Skardu. GRACE students have opportunities to participate in these programs and learn English, social and 21st century skills from highly qualified teachers during after school hours which help improve their confidence level and personal development.

GRACE Association plans to construct additional classrooms at the 1st floor of the elementary school building with a boarding house for students coming from far flung rural villages. In this way, not only girl students can continue their education but grow in a dynamic learning environment. GRACE firmly believes in education as a universal right and providing education to girl children through secondary and beyond is yet a genuine need and essential investment to have a positive impact on health and welfare for the next generation and to help reduce poverty and slow down rapid population growth in our country.

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GLACIER Grafting Project Kwardu, Gilgit-Baltistan

In October 2019, GRACE Association Pakistan and local community organization WAFA collaborated with UNDP's GLOF II project and University of Baltistan (UoB) for a Glacier Grafting project in Kowardu valley. Hundreds of community volunteers from Kwardu community participated with a high female participation in the project. GRACE Association worked on community organization, while the University of Baltistan researched and provided technical support for the project. Kwardo is a drought hit valley with vast barren land in

Gilgit-Baltistan where people lack access to clean drinking and irrigation water. Glacier Grafting will help local communities in having access to clean drinking water as well as water for irrigation and forestry. The community's motivation to complete this effectively is remarkable and stems from the successful completion of previous projects they completed in collaboration with supporting organizations and projects such as WASEP, GRACE Association and AKRSP.

This Glacier grafting project processes involved local community volunteers and youth in collection of ice masses from six different locations of Baltistan Division (Kondos Khaplu, Arindo, Istak, Rondu and four of the glaciers of Shigar District). Six teams of volunteers, each team comprising 8-10 members trained by Dr. Zakir Hussain Thasang, Director Academic UoB and GRACE Association set out for the target points for Glacier Grafting. The teams also collected water from different streams (Nallahs) and rivers from these locations with the help of volunteers.

Under the GLOF II Project, a volunteer plantation drive, 'Adopt a Tree Campaign' at Al-Zahra Girl School Kwardu also started. A large number of students participated in the campaign which directly contributes to the Prime Minister's Clean and Green Pakistan initiative. The project inauguration event at Kwardu were attended by Minister Planning & Development GB, Iqbal Hassan, Additional Chief Secretary GB, Syed Abrar Hussain, Vice Chancellor University of Baltistan, Dr. Muhammad Naeem Khan, Khadim Hussain, Secretary Works and Zakir Hussain, Conservator Forests, Gilgit-Baltistan, Deputy Commissioners of districts Kharmang, Shigar, Astore. as well as members of the local community, women, youth and students. Khadim Hussain, Chief Executive GRACE Association delivered the welcome note and charter of demands on behalf of the community as he hails from Kwardu. It was the first successful event fully participated by women folks in the history of Kwardu valley.



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Glacier Grafting Kwardu 1. Event banner: GRACE Association requested University of Baltistan and UNDP for this project 2. The Chief Guest, Mr. Iqbal Hassan, Minister Planning and Development, G-B Legislative Assembly, Syed Abrar Hussain, Additional Chief Secretary G-B, Mr. Abdul Waqar, Technical Specialist GLOF-UNDP, Mr. Amanullah Khan, Assistant Country Representative UNDP Pakistan, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Director Academic and Specialist in Glacier Grafting as Ingenious Technology and Khadim Hussain, Host of the Event and CEO GRACE. 3. The Kwardu Community Volunteers transporting Glacier in local baskets to top of the mountain for grafting. 4. Dr. Zakir with M. Hashim and M. Nazir, community volunteers. 5. Community volunteers departing to traveling different valleys of Baltistan to get glacier

SUCCESS STORIES

Skills and knowledge for sustainable development

Story
1

NOREEN JAHAN (SKARDU)

GRACE Access Program Alumna 2012

Noreen Jahan, the calm shy girl transformed herself in the first Sculpture Artist of Baltistan

Noreen, 23, comes from Shagari Bala, a beautiful rural village set in Skardu in the mountainous extreme north of Pakistan. In 2010 she joined the GRACE Access Program in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan. A shy student, in the beginning she avoided classroom participation and enhancement activities. However, before leaving home to start in the Program, Noreen had been a keen gardener, helping her parents tend the family plot. This love of nature and Skardu's breathtaking landscape became her inspiration in shaping her art, capturing scenes from the surrounding natural world. Simple household hobbies and tasks, from gardening to house decoration, became for passion. Visitors to her home were immediately struck by her talents, realising that Noreen was destined to achieve great things.

However, she was still very young, and in need of guidance and encouragement.

"It was my great good luck to join the GRACE Access Program in Skardu. The Access Program Coordinator, Mr. Shamshad Hussain, and teachers, encouraged me to participate in activities related to my interests - chiefly in drawing and art. I was given opportunities to lead groups and share the art that I was creating at home. I started participating in all classroom and enhancement activities. I learned to believe in my talents and abilities. Knowing that I could do these things are great boost for my self- confidence..." her a It is commonly known that students feel encouraged to move forward when teachers show appreciation of their work. Curiosity helps even more, with hard work being the third pillar to success. But even then, no-one could guess that Noreen, the shy, calm Access girl, would become the first ever professional



Noreen Jahan, GRACE Access Alumna 1. Noreen Jahan in Italy . 2. Noreen with Ms. Julia, Mr. Abdul Majeed and Access students at GRACE school Skardu. (2012).

sculptor in Baltistan Region. Noreen says, "It is fact that successful people do face difficulties in order to get ahead in life. In Pakistan, most people do not believe that females are able to possess talents and abilities. A girl is supposed to become just a good housewife, or at most, a doctor or teacher. That's all. But for me I needed more than just a conventional role, since my dream was to become an artist. However, I was well aware what the reaction would be. I heard people in my village saying things like: 'A girl is not able.' 'A girl should not be an artist because it does not suit her.' 'A girl cannot do it. Dabbling in fine art has no scope; it's just a waste of time.' Obviously, comments like these are discouraging and hurtful. But, believing that actions speak louder than words, I chose to let my art be my response. I am so fortunate that my family and GRACE Association Pakistan's team supported my decision to become an artist. In 2014 I was graduated from the GRACE Access Program where I spent two productive years. The same year my dream came true. The National College of Arts (NCA), a world-leader in fine art education, gave me the three most productive years of my life. It was not easy. I was a girl, and I was to adjust to a strange society in a different culture. Added to which was the severe heat in Lahore in summer. But despite all these hurdles, I never gave up. I just learned to plan and get on with things. From the

GRACE Access Program I learned not to hide away. I participated in art exhibitions in Lahore and in a very short time I became one of the institution's leading students. After graduating in 2017, I became the first ever Sculptural Artist in the Baltistan Region. Later, I went to Italy to attend the Siena Arts Institute. Recently, in 2018, I created a statue of the late, famous Gilgi-Baltistan mountaineer, Hassan Satpara, the first Pakistani to conquer Mount Everest. It was displayed on Hassan Satpara Square in Skardu." Noreen's story shows that a girl who utilises her capabilities and applies her learning to life moves forward and achieves success. She believed that creative thinking, a thirst for knowledge and hard work are the factors that differentiate people from the crowd. Her story is an open message for all that there are no shortcuts in life. Her success has opened a new window and has become a source of encouragement for the youngsters of Skardu. Following Noreen's example, many girls and boys from Skardu have now applied for and gained admission to NCA Campuses. This credit goes to Noreen. Her achievements set the benchmark and have created a legacy in the history of Baltistan which will never be forgotten.



Noreen Jahan, GRACE Access Alumna 1. Noreen made the Sculpture of famous Mountaineer Hassan Sadpara. This sculpture is installed at Hassan Sadpara Chowk Skardu. (2016) 2. Noreen receiving Award from Mr. Muhammad Naeem, VC, University of Baltistan (2018)

SUCCESS STORIES

Skills and knowledge for sustainable development

Story
2

SIDDIQA MOOSA (KHAPLU)

GRACE Access Program Lead Teacher

The last six years of my service with the GRACE Access family has been marvelous for me and my community. Siddqa

Joining the GRACE Access Program Gilgit-Baltistan as an English Language Instructor in 2012 was a life-changing journey for me. I belong to the beautiful mountainous but remote and under-privileged community of Khaplu in Baltistan where access to quality education is hardly possible for girls. My parents are both illiterate, my father is a Chef and my mother is a housewife. I have five sisters and no brother and in my whole journey I had great support from my elder sister. My father took me from the northern Pakistan to Karachi in the south where I studied and got Master's Degrees in International Relations (IR) and Political Science. Later I got professional teaching Degrees of B.Ed. and M.Ed.

Now I am studying for my Master's in English Literature from Sargodha University.

The last six years of my service with the GRACE Access family has been marvelous for me and my community. I was able to boost my self-confidence and develop multiple skills such as creative thinking, management and communication. This experience built my leadership skills and I began serving my under-privileged community in Khaplu.

Apart from my service as a teacher at Public School & College Khaplu I work as a Lead Teacher at GRACE Access Center after school. Through the Access platform I got a wonderful opportunity to visit United States through the US Culture Immersion Program - a 25 days teachers' exchange program - in 2013. This exchange visit helped me focus on fostering leadership and inter-cultural skills, and included the



Ms Siddiq Moosa 1. Ms Siddiq in the snowland, Khaplu Baltistan (2016). 2. Ms Siddiq and Mr. Qaisar Abbas with GRACE Access students at Khaplu Public School, Khaplu (2018).

implementation of a grant-funded community project in Pakistan. As a teacher from a far-flung area of Pakistan, the exchange opened me up to a whole new array of the latest effective pedagogical methods that I applied on my return, building the capacity and enhancing the skills of my Access and school students. Most importantly, the US experience gave me the opportunity to serve my community. In my community I work for youth and women empowerment. I have run a successful workshop on Micro-Entrepreneurship Skills Enhancement for women in Ghanche District and have led various activities including a Painting Competition to foster youth leadership skills, Career Counseling, Proposal Writing, Democracy under Youth, Women and Inclusive Communities workshop, Free Medical Camps and conducted Teacher Training on the Blooms Taxonomy teaching models. I organize events and programs like Women's Day celebrations, Mother Child health sessions and other important national, international and cultural days. I also encourage youth to apply for scholarship programs and work with the stakeholders of my community to provide growth opportunities to youth and women. These activities promote cultural understanding in the communities I serve.

I feel proud to be part of the GRACE Access Program where 250 girls and boys from Khaplu have been graduated and equally empowered. My Access students and graduates are also passionate about serving the community and are studying in the country's best higher education institutions. One of them is an active member and holds a leadership

position at PUAN and another successfully completed the KL-YES Scholarship. I feel very honored when I see my students are studying higher education and/or working for betterment of the society. Today, I can proudly say that the GRACE Association's programs empowered not only me to move forward, but hundreds of youth even from the isolated Khaplu ensuring gender equality in all its activities. I feel confident enough to lead and raise the voices of the voiceless in my region. I must extend my gratitude to the US Embassy and GRACE Association Pakistan for providing these superb opportunities and grand platforms for me and out youth to grow and serve humanity.

My story is not an exception at the Access Program where both teachers and students thrive. I truly think that my success was not a result of my intellect or higher academic aptitude, but that the GRACE Access program that provided me the platform I needed to make this story possible. I wish that the Access program will reach to every student in Gilgit-Baltistan.



Ms Siddiq Moosa 1. Ms Siddiq teaching about climate change engaging students in a practical activity on World Environment Day June 5, 2017. 2. Ms. Siddiq and her colleagues with Mr. Shamshad Hussain and Khadim Hussain from GRACE Association during their visit to Khaplu center (2019)

SUCCESS STORIES

Reversing children from street to school

Story
3

BANO ADIL (ALIPUR ISLAMABAD)

A school dropped out girl child

GRACE-GFC Vulnerable Children Education Project helping street children get enrolled in schools and learn in rural Islamabad

The story of Bano, 9, daughter of Mr. Adil, 60, a resident of Alipur village, Islamabad is worthy to share.

Bano was studying in class 3 in a government school. She was failed in her class twice. Annoyed of this her parents took Bano out of the government school despite Bano wanted continue school and learn. Since that day, Bano used spending 3-4 hours daily outside a private school nearby her house. She wanted get enrolled in the school and learn but her parents had no money for fees. Hence, she became a street child gradually by spending more time in the street, helping the shopkeepers clean the shop area for penny and or toffees.

Incidentally GRACE project team saw the girl during their school enrollment campaign in Alipur village. Waqar, the team leader asked the girl reason of moving around alone in the street. He also inquired about the girl from the shopkeepers and got some basic info about the girl. Bano, also told her story to the team with tears in eyes.

GRACE team took her to parents and talked about her education and re-schooling. Parents were not ready to send her back to school. They believed she cannot learn. When our team raised the question about her time spending in the street alone, they showed concerns over. They were in fact worried. But they had no choice. They didn't want keep their daughter in the home all the day. They said, "we cannot actually afford her education with repeated classes." GRACE team offered them fee stipend for their daughter and



Bano Adil, 9, grade 3 1. Bano, in the street after dropping out from school. 2. Bano, now in the school with all other school children in school uniform in the front line in second row from left (2018)

her enrolment at KIPS, Kauthar Ideal Public School, one of GRACE project partner school, they agreed. Their second daughter Zulikha was already enrolled in KIPS and been supporting through tuition fee stipend from GRACE project. Bano was curious and eager to get enrolled in KIPS to get an education. So, GRACE team enrolled her in the school in grade 3 and requested teachers to give her little extra time and improve her learning performance. Since the day, Bano re-started schooling and showed strong will to learn soon.

Today, Bano is one of the talented girls in her class. The class teacher reported that her failure at the previous school was not her fault. She is talented and hardworking. The only need was some encouraging words and little extra guidance.

KIPS school teachers are able to improve academic performance of their slow learners. However, the school principal said, "it was a great job to find out such a talented child from street to school. GRACE team did a great job." One of the KIPS teachers said, "I was able to manage and improve Bano's learning performance because I learned how to draw special attention on slow learners during our training last year GRACE organized for us."

Now, Bano is changed. The perception of her parents also changed. School teachers called her parents to school few time. They were so happy for their daughter and showed their confidence in her learning performance both at school and home.



Bano Adil 1. Girl student restarted school at Fatima Standard School & Academy Bari Imam (2019) 2. KIPS school students sharing their learning with GRACE team (2019). 3. GRACE team meeting with KIPS School teachers on school development planning and enrollment of out of school children (2018).

GRACE PROMINENT IMPACTS

GRACE Association Pakistan has been highly effective to improve the situation on ground by bringing envisioned change in the social and economic lives of the target groups. The great impact of GRACE programs is the leading force to justifying its existence and has developed an urge for enhanced partnership to expand and strengthen its programs.

Changing mind set regarding girls' education - Families and population in the remote areas who considered girls education an objectionable deed three decades ago have understood the importance of and have started demanding for girl's education. It was the result of GRACE Founding Member's campaign on girl's education and setting up 06 girl's schools in remote areas from where 10,000 students (60% girls) have passed out as of today starting since 1992. Out of these almost 30 per cent have become mothers. People observed visible change in the brought up of children born by educated mothers. There was a perceptible change in the family attitude with trickle-down effect on

the entire community. The educated mothers have firmly stood for quality education for their children giving rise to healthy competition for improved quality of education among schools in the region.

Young women claim their social and cultural rights – This is one of the most profound transformations in the society at large and particularly on the attitude of the educated girls. Educated women got awareness about their religious and sociocultural rights regarding control on their lives. Many of them particularly the victims of harmful practices including forced marriages, early marriages, child motherhood went for



GRACE Impacts

1: GRACE program students telling the world that all kinds of discrimination is a crime. 2. Girls are calling to "Save Girl Child" and "Think a world without us." They are GRACE Access students with built confidence, knowledge and skills and educating the society against gender discrimination and women rights.

separation from their spouses because they wanted to continue their education instead of marriages.

Tangible reduction in early child marriages and early child bearing – Women awareness about their sociocultural rights have resulted in the reduction of early/child marriages. According to GRACE estimate, this percentage has dropped down by 60% in the targeted communities in Baltistan. As a multiplier effect girls have been saved from bearing the harmful health effects of early child bearing. Parents started considering the educated girls as agent of change and productive members of the society and extended permission to join employment in teaching, tourism, health, NGOs and government sectors etc.

Young women mobility impacted - GRACE has produced 1600 graduates (adolescent girls and boys) from its English Access Program starting from 2010. It has been a trade blazer in the history of Baltistan where for the first time in the history a graduate girl travelled to USA without accompanying with a family member. It has set a trend for enhanced mobility of women to explore social and economic opportunities in other areas of Pakistan and abroad.

They are able for studies abroad - Many of the students both girls and boys who availed higher education abroad are now studying in foreign universities in USA, China and Turkey etc. which will bring a revolution in Baltistan in the field of science and technology effecting deprivations; vulnerability, violation of rights – and social injustice – linked to GRACE values.

Disable persons are empowered now - GRACE has made a hammer in the peoples' and societies'

reception about the disable persons. GRACE Founding Member and Chief Executive is polio affected disable person who now stands amongst one of the most dynamic and useful members of the society benefitting and empowering 10s of 100s of adolescent girls and boys to become social and economic leaders. Particularly people living with disabilities are no more considered a burden on the society. This group is now much respected and valued in the society which has successfully addressed their mental and physical deprivation. Those who thought that disability is from Allah and they are helpless people requiring care and maintenance from other members of the society now are empowered socially and in many cases economically. GRACE has enhanced their access to education by setting a model of inclusive education in all of its schools for disable persons who make 05% of the total school graduates.

Girls are no more out of school – GRACE has made a mark in enhancing access of girls to education in areas where girl's schools were not available. To address this issue, GRACE adopted an excellent strategy. On one hand it advocated and supported the government and transformed exclusive boys schools into inclusive and co-education schools to enhance girls and disable children's access to education. And on the other hand it motivated and convinced parents and communities to send their girls to attend boy's schools. It changed peoples mind-sets regarding sending the girls' schools only to girl's schools. It enabled thousands of out of school children to access education opening avenues for higher education and employment.



GRACE Impacts. 1. The first woman commercial pilot Ms. Aiman Amir sharing her story and building confidence of fellow girls to take part in every fields in life and nation building. 2. Girl students GRACE school asking questions to Aiman Amir.

Enhanced access to market employability - Due to the Grace English Works Program adolescents have access to 21st century employability skills and now entering in the employment market. This is expected to contribute to an economic change in the region.

Social and economic empowerment of young girls - GRACE interventions have provoked girls thought regarding entrepreneurship – leading to female led business set up such as girls home net café, composing centre and Man-o-Salva business (supply of home-made food) etc. for economic empowerment of girls. Women are engaged in such business which have improved their households' economy and is leading towards their mainstreaming in the decision making processes.

Replication of best practices - GRACE project on Introducing community based climate change mitigation technology has resulted in the promotion of underground water exploration and utilization of water for irrigation of orchards and forests. A trend of reforestation has started which actually could not be done due to water scarcity in the past. This idea is replicated in three valleys of Baltistan region.

Partnership with people - GRACE successfully mobilized local communities to address its resource limitations. It promoted local resource generation in the form of land, volunteer labours, in kind, cash and time contribution for development schemes - it is a lesson learnt which is ready for replication

Sustaining resistance for change – Story of GRACE is all about change; it brought change in the lives of its target groups by empowering the most vulnerable groups of the society. Groups of people with status quo resist change. GRACE broke barriers of resistance for change and learnt and trained its beneficiaries how to sustain change.

Soft image of Pakistan - GRACE intensively worked with UN Online Volunteers since 2007 – onward to overcome its human resource problem. It resulted in raising Pakistan's soft image at global level. GRACE worked with over 100 UN Online Volunteers belonging to USA, Australia, UK, Netherlands, Canada, China, Philippine, Nepal, India, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan and won the Global Competition of UN Online Volunteer Award 2009. One of the Volunteers Kate Anderson from USA from visited Skardu launched training on ECD teachers training and wrote up travel story entitled “The long road to Skardu – reflections of an online turned on-site volunteer” www.unv.org/our-stories which added to Pakistan image globally. This venture has also promoted tourism in Pakistan.



GRACE Impacts 1. Khadim Hussain, CEO GRACE Association visits GRACE Access Program Center Skardu and observing students learning in the classroom (2017). 2. Access program center Khaplu students presenting a national song at Khaplu Public School (2018)

WHO BENEFITS FROM OUR PROGRAMMES?

Our programmes benefit deprived, marginalized and excluded communities across Pakistan.

These programmes are particularly directed at highly vulnerable groups - These populations are categorized as under:

- **Children not attending school**
- **Street children**
- **Economically vulnerable families**
- **Youth / adolescents from economically disadvantaged families**
- **Vulnerable girls**
- **People in climatically vulnerable and disaster areas**
- **Children / People with disabilities (PWDs)**
- **Landless people**
- **Displaced people (e.g. due to war, natural disasters etc.)**
- **Trapped children (e.g. in child labour or slavery conditions)**

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING

Donors

Project: GRACE-DAP Baltistan Flood Victim's Winter Relief Project

Direct Aid Program of the Australian High Commission, Islamabad

Project: Construction of GRACE Public School
Project: GRACE Water Supply Project Astana Skardu
Embassy of the Government of Japan In Pakistan

Project: Provision of Furniture and Educational Equipment for GRACE Public School
Embassy of the German Federal Republic, Islamabad

Projects: English Access Microscholarship Program & English Works Program
United States Embassy, Islamabad

Project: Introducing a Sustainable Model of Community-Based Climate Change Mitigation in Skardu Baltistan
One UN Joint Programme on Environment/Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan - Grass-Roots Initiative Programme (GRIP)

Projects: Vulnerable Street Children Primary Education Project Bari Imam Islamabad
Global Fund for Children, USA

Projects: Hygienic Handpumps Water Supply Scheme, Nazimabad, Skardu
JIPPO (NPO), Japan

Membership & Networking Organizations

- Parwan, Early Childhood Education & Development
- Association of Global Humanists and Ethics,

- Private Education Network (PEN)
- CBR Network, Pakistan
- Pakistan Institute of Management
- Idara-e-Taleem-o-Agahi (ITA)
- Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) International, Pakistan
- Network of Organizations Working for People With Disabilities, Pakistan (NOWPDP)
- RI Korea, Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities
- Rehabilitation International (RI), New York
- Vision 21st Pakistan
- Children Education Network Pakistan

Public Private Partnerships

- Directorate of Education, Gilgit-Baltistan
- Local Government and Rural Development, Gilgit-Baltistan
- Ministry of Education, Gov. of Pakistan, Islamabad
- Ministry of Environment: National Environmental Action Plan, Islamabad
- Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education, Islamabad
- Northern Areas Conservation Strategy - NACS

E-networking

- UN Online Volunteering (UNOV), Germany
- Centre for Independent Living (CIL), Australia



VOLUNTEERING AT GRACE

Volunteering for peace and development

Story
1

KATE ANDERSON (USA)

Reflections of an online-turned -on-site volunteer

The long road to Skardu

Kate Anderson Simons,
GRACE Association Volunteer from USA

Biography: Kate Anderson Simons is an education consultant who has consulted on domestic and international education projects for the Brookings Institution, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Child Trends, Inc., US Department of Health and Human Services, and a number of local organisations. Her interests focus on vulnerable children, both in the US and internationally, who are affected by poverty, armed conflict, and inequitable learning environments. She holds a BA in Psychology from Pepperdine University and a Masters in Public Policy from Georgetown University. She has been an active online volunteer for GRACE Association Pakistan since 2007. Here is her story of volunteering at GRACE Association Pakistan.

My journey to Skardu began several years ago, with the idea that I wanted to visit Skardu and work with GRACE Association Pakistan on early childhood capacity development.

Along the way, I travelled to the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, DC 10 times to check on the status of my visa; to Islamabad via Doha with a diversion to Lahore because of weather conditions; twice again to the Islamabad airport in an attempt to fly to Skardu, only to have the flight cancelled two days in a row; and finally with GRACE chief executive Khadim Hussain on a 24-hour bus ride from Rawalpindi to Skardu, through Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and GilgitBaltistan provinces.

When I arrived in the breathtaking Skardu valley, I knew this long journey was well worth the time and effort.



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Kate Anderson, volunteer. 1. Ms. Kate Anderson from USA was one of the in-person volunteers and happy with GRACE School students at Skardu in local women dress gifted by our students. 2. Kate with Ms Mehreen Imtiaz, Instructor Access Program and Khadim Hussain, CEO GRACE at a Guest Speaker session with English Access Program students (2011).

I first connected with GRACE Association Pakistan in 2007 through the UN Online Volunteering Program. At the time, GRACE was seeking help writing a proposal for early childhood development programming in Skardu. Through this opportunity, I learned about the community of Skardu and the surrounding areas. When Khadim first asked me to visit in 2008, I was concerned about the security situation there, because the American news media was reporting only on the violent episodes in Pakistan. However, through talking with people like Khadim, and through researching education in Pakistan while working at the Brookings Institution, a different picture began to emerge.

I saw a country where education was highly valued and human resources were needed to further the momentum toward education in the communities. I learned that, just as in America, there were areas that were less safe and areas that were very safe. I was even told by a colleague who had visited Skardu that it would be more secure there than in many parts of my home of Washington, DC. I realised the media had painted an inaccurate picture of Pakistan, and Americans would continue to believe these inaccuracies if they had no access to real information. In January 2011, I decided it was time to start planning my trip to Pakistan and Skardu. Khadim enlisted the help of Shamshad Hussain of GRACE to assist with my visa application. The US Department of State had issued a travel advisory against any non-essential travel to Pakistan for American citizens. However, the work that GRACE is doing is so essential to improving the lives of the children and families in Pakistan, that I decided this was an essential trip.

I also took steps to blend into Pakistani culture, including wearing shalwar kamiz and covering my head with a dupatta (hijab). I did this not because I felt it was required, but in respect for the customs and in turn I received respect from the people I met. Reading *The Voice of Grassroots* and following GRACE on the website and Facebook, I had an idea of the work the organisation was doing in Skardu. However, meeting the people behind the work and seeing the evidence in the field, I realised there was much more to the story.

GRACE Association plays a prominent role in the community, and its leaders have a tremendous amount of social and political capital in the region. These relationships ensure that projects are aligned with community needs and completed satisfactorily.

My own background is in early childhood development, and the primary purpose of my visit

was to develop the capacity of the teachers at GRACE Public School Skardu. I spent the first day observing the teachers, and I found that the relationships between students and teachers, and among students, were very strong. Children feel comfortable coming to the teachers with questions and the teachers are dedicated and willing to try new strategies in their work.

The next day I facilitated a workshop on enriching learning experiences. We talked about providing learning experiences that incorporated a variety of learning styles (seeing, listening, doing, touching, moving, etc.). During this workshop, the GRACE Public School Skardu teachers, principal Mr Raza, and Khadim developed a vision for high-quality primary education, and we discussed the pathways to achieving that vision.

Next, we planned a series of activities for small groups of children in the nursery and prep classrooms (children aged three to five years), taught by Ms Fatima, Ms Samreen, and Ms Naznin. We incorporated teacher-developed materials such as letter and picture cards, and recycled materials such as bottle caps for learning counting, sorting, and patterning.

On Thursday, we launched the new activities, and while it was a lot of work, teachers noted that the children were very interested in learning and that they were “learning through playing.” Later that day, Mr Raza, Ms Samreen, Ms Fatima, Ms Naznin and I went shopping with Khadim and Mr Qasim of GRACE Association to buy materials to promote learning and bins in which to organise them.

Finally, on Friday we worked on organising the classroom and said goodbye.

While in Skardu, I also had the opportunity to deliver a presentation to the English ACCESS Micro Scholarship Program students. This program is an initiative funded by the US Department of State and coordinated by Shamshad. My presentation was titled, “Career counselling and opportunities for higher education in the USA,” and I spoke about the higher education system in general and my own experiences.

The students were very bright and motivated group and all had ambitious career aspirations. They saw English as an important step in meeting their career goals, as many opportunities for higher education in Pakistan are taught in the English medium.

“

I realised the media had painted an inaccurate picture of Pakistan, and Americans would continue to believe these inaccuracies if they had no access to real information..

I also had the pleasure of visiting Kwardu Valley and Muntzarabad, the home of the GRACE founders and the birthplace of the powerful grassroots movement that began here in 1992. There I had the opportunity to visit several schools and sample traditional Balti foods in the home of Khadim and his family. Flying back from Skardu to Islamabad, I was sad to leave this beautiful place and my new friends. However, I am already planning to come back in 2012. In the meantime, Khadim and I are planning several efforts to sustain this work while I am back in the USA.

First, I will be conducting live trainings for the GRACE Public School Skardu teachers and leadership via Skype, which will be projected onto a screen in the school. We are also considering establishing a non-profit organisation in the United States to replicate the successful behavioural change communication and grassroots community empowerment model worldwide.

Overall, my visit to Baltistan was incredible. While I had known that the Balti people were recognised for their hospitality, I was unprepared for what that really meant. Throughout my visit, I was invited into people's homes for tea after just meeting them; provided with handmade gifts from students; received daily text messages with inspiring words from my new friends; and most importantly, formed lifelong friendships.

The students and citizens of this region are full of hope and ambition for their futures, but are in need of technical support and resources to help them achieve this vision of excellence. I am hopeful that through continued collaboration, the GRACE staff, partners, and volunteers can make this vision a reality



1



Kate Anderson, volunteer. 1. Kate Anderson conducting a workshop for GRACE School teachers on Early Childhood Development and Education. 2. Kate visited the first school, Al-Zahra Girl School Kwardu and met the School Principal Ms. Kaneez Fatima (2011)

VOLUNTEERING AT GRACE

Volunteering for peace and development

Story 2

Rohan Chalise (Nepal) Online Volunteer

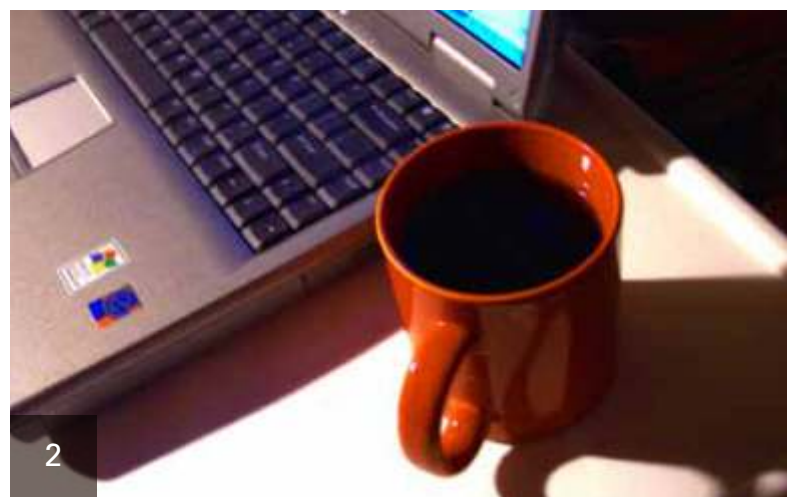
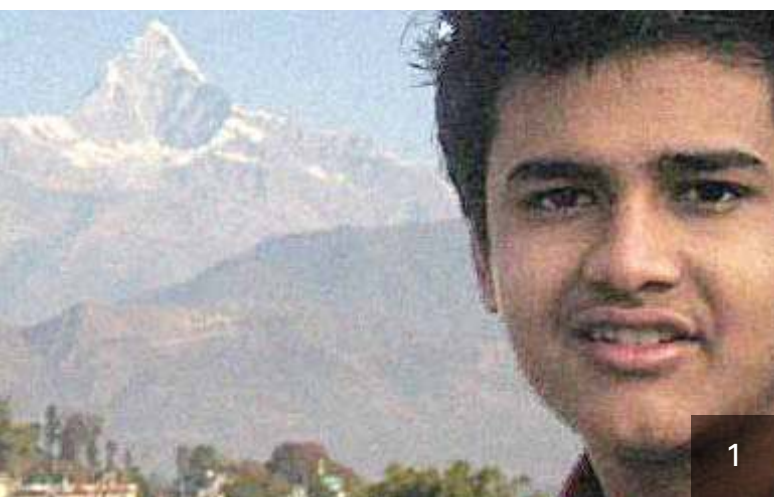
As in early childhood, I got chance to live and experience in different rural parts of Nepal. Since the day I was born, I used to get all the comforts and luxury as a child. I slowly grew up in that environment and found some differences between myself and those people living in those villages.

At the extreme temperature of 5 degree, I used to be warm and comfortable whereas children of mine age were even deprived of a single cloth. I slowly grew older. I learned and got experienced with time. I found that it is immoral to discriminate people for their color, religion, language and their nationality. For me

the only religion was of Humanity. So, I decided to do volunteering not only for my country but for this whole world as one.

I learned everyone is not same in this World. The difference in religion, nationality and gender, everything was created by us. I decided to do something for this and devoted myself for those needy and poor. I always believed that each individual has the power to change the world and you have to lead to example.

At the mean time, our neighbor country Pakistan was in crucial situation. The flood in Northern Pakistan made life very difficult to those areas. Many people lost their lives and there was huge loss of property. I was very sad with that unfortunate news and wanted



Rohan Chalise, volunteer. 1 and 2. Rohan Chalise from Nepal is one of our energetic and enthusiastic Online Volunteers. He helps us in managing social media and sharing GRACE Association's mission, vision, objectives and programs with many online groups and networks. GRACE appreciates his dedication and love for humanity.

“ I found that it is immoral to discriminate people for their color, religion, language and their nationality. For me the only religion was of Humanity

to help them any way possible from my side. As I was United Nation Online Volunteer, I applied to GRACE Association as a online volunteer. I was selected and was fortunate to help them.

The GRACE Association-Pakistan is among the few committed and dedicated Non-Governmental organization in Pakistan. It has been helping the needy and has been uplifting the lives of several hundred from more than one and half decade.

The grassroots' development and positive action made GRACE different from other organization and also made me interested in it. I tried to be in the family of GRACE Association and did a bit from my side.

Volunteering for GRACE was a very good learning experience. As an Online volunteer, it was my duty to convince, attract and communicate with possible donors. We used modern technique such as Face-book, twitter and MySpace. I had a network of more than 50,000 people in face book. Some other volunteers were working hard on Twitter and MySpace.

We also made some attractive pictures and posted in various places. We responded different feedbacks and comments by huge number of people globally.

We also personally contacted the donors and asked for their help. Also being the team leader of online volunteers it was my work to coordinate and encourage every volunteer personally.

However, we were not able to win the Global Giving Competition but we learned few immortal experiences that will surely help us in future.

There were lots of challenges that we faced during this volunteering. The image of Pakistan was very much misleading. Global community is very much negative on the Pakistanis and Muslim. Only few people know that some people are wrong but the whole nation cannot be wrong. The trust on Pakistan is degrading, that is why people are less aware and don't want to give for Pakistan.

Pakistan is a very diverse and beautiful country. Due to some misconception, the holy place of Islam has been misleading. The main thing is to conduct different international awareness program regarding the positive factors of Pakistan. This can help globally to know more about Pakistan and make a good note about it.

The beauty and charm of this holy place should be made known to every individual, then automatically and slowly the image will be clear and world will respect to the people of Pakistan.

I am not bound by any color, nationality, religion or gender. If I had wings, I would have reached every corner of the world and had helped the people with pain. At least for a second, if I can give happiness to someone that will be the greatest reward to me.

At last, whatever we do cannot change the structure of the universe but it can surely change the lives of few people. Let's know that the most important thing above any religion, nationality and color is the Humanity. We find our self while helping others. The power of giving is the way to find God. Hence, it was an awesome time working with GRACE Association and also a very good learning experience.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

GRACE will continue working with the most underprivileged communities in the least developed parts of Gilgit-Baltistan and other parts of the country. Apart from its key priority areas organization will join hands with the humanitarian communities in responding to emergencies in the aftermath of a disaster or an emergency. Organizational values, vision, mission, strategic principles and strategic interventions will guide implementation of the programs.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the strategy will be developed to track progress on achieving results and GRACE identification for keeping the program implementation on track. Interim program evaluation will help in assessing program effectiveness, relevance, sustainability of the program intervention.

GRACE Association Pakistan has identified three program areas 1. Quality Education; 2. Skills Enhancement and Employment and 3. Environment and Climate Change to work on in the next five years. These areas are strongly linked to the Government's Vision 2030 and will directly contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly SDG 1: end poverty, 4: quality education, 5: gender equality, 7: affordable and clean energy, 8: decent work and economic growth, 10: reduced inequalities, 13: climate action and 16: peace, justice and strong institutions. Priority programs will appreciate other International instruments including Convention on the Right of Child, UN Declaration on Human Rights, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and UN Convention on Climate Change etc.

GRACE will interface its programs with ongoing larger programs at national level for the purpose of continuous learning from the best practices and knowledge up gradation, enhancing complementarities and avoiding reinventing the

wheel. GRACE will identify areas of collaboration with National and International Organizations, will partner with the UN and will mobilize resources from institutional donors by aligning objectives and results.

GRACE is mindful of its niche which is already in synch with the Prime Minister's statement regarding uplifting of most vulnerable and deprived populations, in his ever first address to the nation after assuming the premiers' office and this is the mainstay of GRACE Association of Pakistan. GRACE plans to emphasize on its strategic intervention of policy advocacy and would draw governments' policy process to be more inclusive of the concerns of GRACE target groups. Organization will make endeavors to work in close partnership with government as well as private sector for the purpose of sustainability of its programs.

ANNEX 1

Governance & Management Team

December 2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Khadim Hussain, Chief Executive

- MA Economics - University of the Punjab
- Community Development & Education Advocate
- Certificate in Development Planning & Management
- Certificate in Educational Leadership & Management
- Brookings Institution's Echidna Global Scholar 2012

Shamshad Hussain, Director Board

- MBA Marketing - University of Sindh
- Chief Executive, Expedition Asia
- Fulbright Scholar
- Marketing, Hospitality and Tourism Management Expert

Sabahat Nadeem, Director Board

- BA - University of Karachi
- Early Childhood Care & Development Expert
- Teachers Training Specialist

Muhammad Qasim, Director Board

- MA Sociology - University of Sindh
- Educationist
- Social Development Activist

MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Mr. Khadim Hussain, Chief Executive
- Dr. Tehmina Roohi, Consultant Programs
- Mr. Muhammad Waqar, Company Secretary
- Mr. Muhammad Ayub, Chief Accountant
- Mr. Sohail Mahmood Saigol, Consultant Corporate Compliance
- M/s Macson Law Associates, Legal Advisor
- M/s Agha Mujeeb & Co. Chartered Accountants, Independent Auditors

VOLUNTEERS

- Ms Yvonne Nelson, Graphics Designer (UN Online Volunteer)
- Mr Andrew Carvan, Copy Editor (UN Online Volunteer)
- Ms Laura Reveni Ike, Editor (UN Online Volunteer)
- Ms Jagoda St., Volunteer Webmaster

ANNEX 2

Independent Auditor's Report

Agha Mujeeb & Co. Chartered Accountants

To The Members of Grace Association
Report on the Audit of the financial statements

A

Opinion

G

We have audited the annexed financial statements of GRACE ASSOCIATION which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2019, the statement of profit and loss account, the statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement for the year then ended and notes to the financial statement, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and we state that we have obtained all the information and explanations, which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purpose of the audit.

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In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanation given to us, the statement of financial position, statement of profit and loss, the statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement together with the notes forming part thereof conform with the accounting and reporting standards as applicable in Pakistan and give the information required by the companies Act, 2017 (XIX of 2017), in the manner so required and respectively give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at June 30, 2019, and of the profit or loss and the changes in equity and its cash flows for the year then ended.

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Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Pakistan. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statement section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountant's Code of Ethics for professional Accountants as adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (the Code) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matter

We have determined that there are no key audit matters to communicate in our report.

&

Responsibilities of Management and Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with the accounting and reporting standard as applicable in Pakistan and the requirements of Companies Act,

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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ANNEX 2

Auditor's Report

Agha Mujeeb & Co. Chartered Accountants

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2017 (XIX of 2017) and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statement that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidated the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Boards of Directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs as applicable in Pakistan will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs as applicable in Pakistan, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ANNEX 2

Auditor's Report

Agha Mujeeb & Co. Chartered Accountants

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- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and event in a manner that achieves fair presentation.'
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Based on our audit, we further report that in our opinion:

- proper books of account have been kept by the Company as required by the Companies Act, 2017 (XIX of 2017);
- the statement of financial position, the statement of profit or loss, the statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement together with the notes thereon have been drawn up in conformity with the Companies Act, 2017 (XIX of 2017) and are in agreement with the books of account and returns;
- investments made, expenditure incurred during the year were for the purpose of the Company's business; and
- No zakat deductible at source under the Zakat and User Ordinance, 1980 (XVIII of 1980)

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is **AGHA MUJEEB AHMED KHAN**.

Signature






Place: Rawalpindi

Date: 18/10/2019

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ANNEX 2

Financial Statement Balance Sheet

GRACE ASSOCIATION BALANCE SHEET AS AT JUNE 30, 2019			
	Notes	2019 (Rupees)	2018 (Rupees)
ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	3	52,292	86,940
CURRENT ASSETS			
Short-term Investments	4	200,000	-
Receivables	5	1,940	-
Cash and bank balances	6	9,712,835	3,112,136
		9,914,775	3,112,136
TOTAL ASSETS		9,967,068	3,199,076
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Accumulated Surplus / (Deficit)		2,919,146	(571,107)
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Project Payables		2,584,585	3,818,673
Project Accounts	7	4,373,337	(133,190)
Provisions, Accrued and Other Charges	8	90,000	84,700
Provision for taxation		-	-
		7,047,922	3,770,183
Contingencies and commitments	9	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		9,967,068	3,199,076
The annexed notes 1-15 form an integral part of these financial statements.			
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ANNEX 2

Financial Statement

Income & Expenditure Account

**GRACE ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

	Notes	2019 (Rupees)	2018 (Rupees)
Income from Donations/ Grant	10	5,083,941	4,870,529
Program cost	11	2,811,161	5,177,536
GROSS SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)		2,272,780	(307,007)
Operational & administrative expenses	12	2,439,600	1,353,288
Finance cost	13	99,103	9,941
OPERATING (DEFICIT)		(265,923)	(1,670,236)
Other income	14	3,756,176	458,873
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION		3,490,253	(1,211,363)
Taxation		-	-
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) AFTER TAXATION		3,490,253	(1,211,363)
Accumulated surplus / (deficit) brought forward		(571,107)	640,256
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) CARRIED FORWARD		2,919,146	(571,107)

The annexed notes 1-15 form an integral part of these financial statements.


Chief Executive






Director

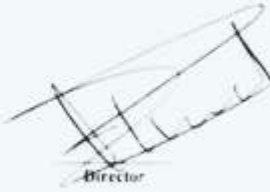
ANNEX 2

Financial Statement Cash Flow Statement

GRACE ASSOCIATION CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019		
	2019 (Rupees)	2018 (Rupees)
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus / (Deficit) After Taxation	3,490,253	(1,211,363)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation	34,648	34,648
Financial Charges	99,103	9,941
Cash Flow Before Working Capital Changes	3,624,004	(1,166,774)
Changes in Working Capital:		
(Increase) / Decrease in Assets		
Short-term Investments	(200,000,000)	-
Receivables	(1,940)	-
	(201,940)	-
Increase / (Decrease) in liabilities		
Project accounts	4,506,527	(42,130)
Provision, accrued and other charges	5,300	(131,300)
Project payable	(1,234,088)	3,416,098
	3,277,739	3,242,668
Cash Generated From/ (Used in) Operations	6,699,803	2,075,893
Financial Charges paid:	(99,103)	(9,941)
Net Cash From (Used in) Operating Activities	6,600,700	2,065,952
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
There are no investing activities of the entity	-	-
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	-	-
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
There are no financing activities of the entity	-	-
Net Cash Used in Financing Activities	-	-
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	6,600,700	2,065,952
Cash and Cash equivalents at the beginning of year	3,112,136	1,046,183
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of Year	9,712,835	3,112,136

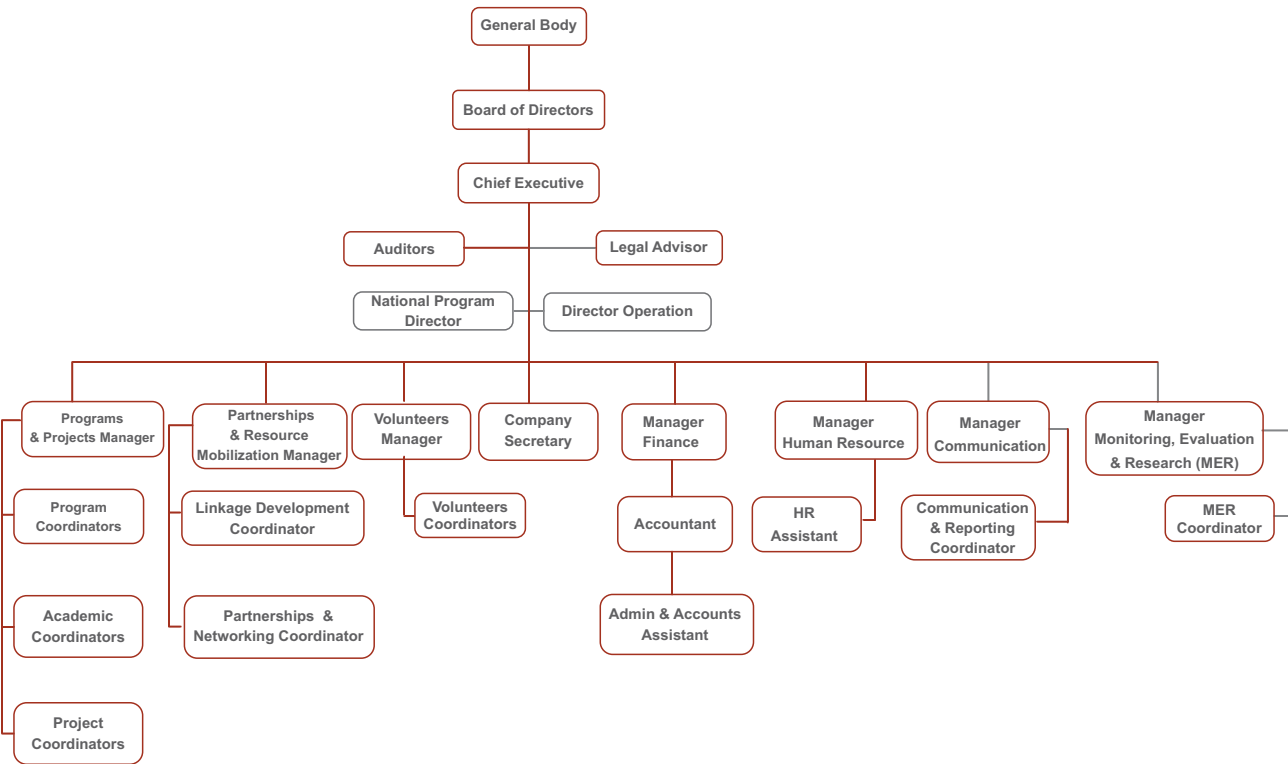

 Chief Executive




 Director

ANNEX 3

Organogram



GET INVOLVED

How you can help us!

GRACE relies on the generosity of individuals, supporting organizations and donors for helping all children including girls and children with disabilities giving them the gift of gift. Our efforts empower them and help them thrive in life. GRACE has identified three priority areas: Education; Skills enhancement and employment; and Environment & Climate Change to endeavor and contribute in achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals particularly Goals 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13 and 16. Your support will directly benefit communities at the grassroots level in Pakistan.



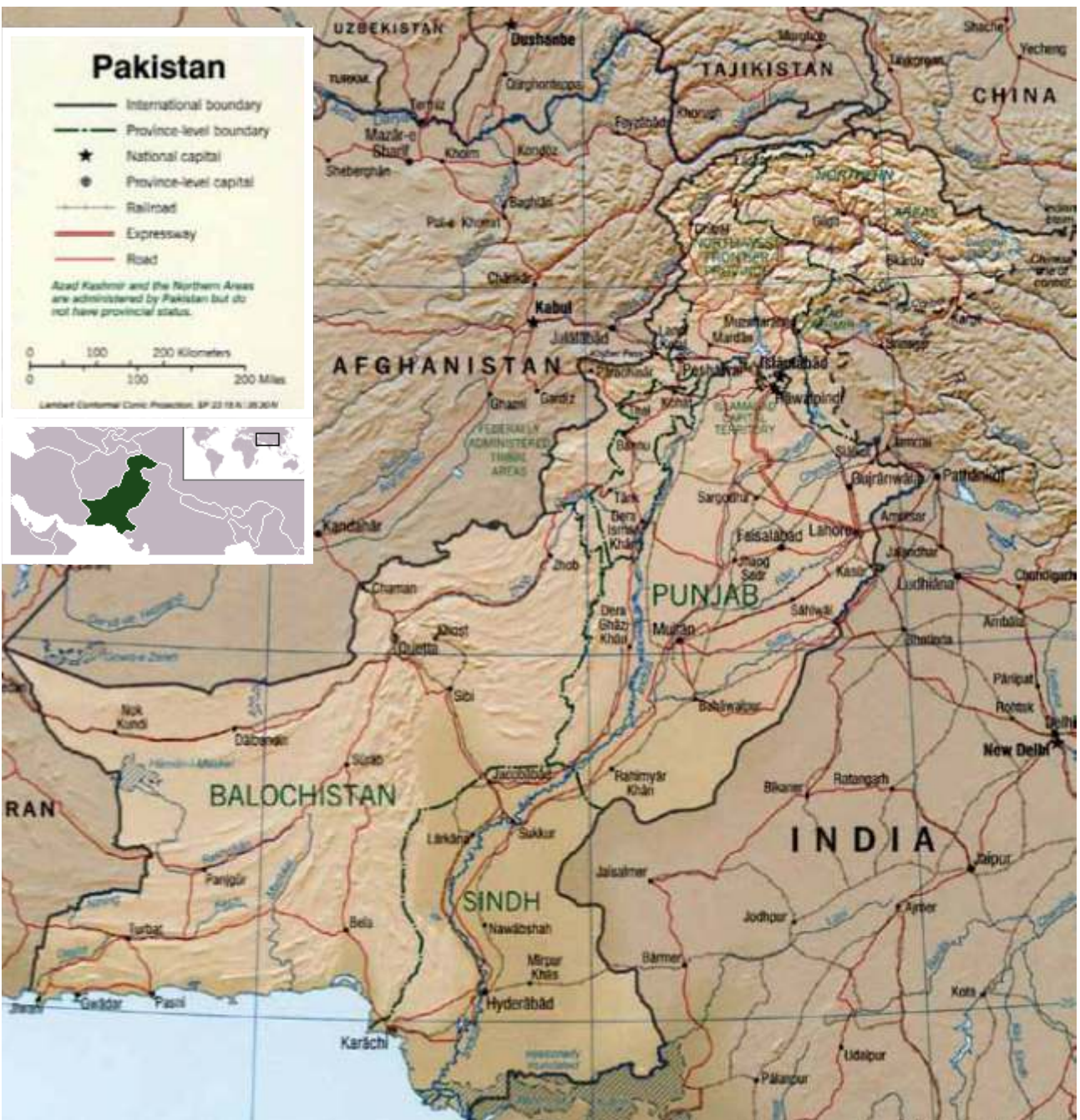
Volunteer

Volunteering is a great way to be a part of GRACE's work. We rely on the valuable support of volunteers who help us change the lives of communities living in poverty in Pakistan. Please visit our website for current open positions: grace.org.pk/take_volunteer

Take action!



MAP





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Northeast territories, Pakistan - Views. 1. Shangrila at Skadu. 2. Skardu. 3. Skardu town, view from the Fort. 4. Gilgit. 5. Karakorum-oytak glacier

IMPRINT

Progress Report 2007-2019

Managing Editor

Khadim Hussain

Coordination team members

Shamshad Hussain

Muhammad Qasim

Muhammad Waqar

Muhammad Ayub

Editors

Dr Tehmina Roohi (Consultant)

Yvonne Nelson (UN Online Volunteer)

Andrew Craven (UN Online Volunteer)

Huma Bukhari (UN Online Volunteer)

Art director/designer

Yvonne Nelson (UN Online Volunteer)

Images

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Cover, GRACE School

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To stay informed about upcoming projects, and news
about GRACE Association, please sign up to our
newsletter. Go to our website, www.grace.org.pk or
send us an email to grace@grace.org.pk
We will be happy to send you our latest news, filled
with information about our work.

IMPACT
200,000
LIVES TRANSFORMED
AND INCREASING...

GRACE Association
is committed to educating
children especially girls, children
with disabilities and youth confidently
addressing life's challenges and providing
opportunities for giving thriving life and catalyzing
positive changes in the least developed,
disadvantaged and marginalised grassroots
communities in Pakistan.

Join us to increase this number impacting more
20,000 people during next
five years.



**GRACE
ASSOCIATION
PAKISTAN**

The grassroots
association
for community
empowerment



Registered Office Islamabad

27 - E 3rd Floor, Office 5,
Ali Plaza, Fazal-e-Haq Road, Blue Area
Islamabad, Pakistan

+92-51-2829970

Fax +92-51-2829970

Email grace@grace.org.pk

Web www.grace.org.pk

Programme Office Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan

Main Airport Road Astana
Skardu 16100, Pakistan

Phone +92-5815-450808

Fax +92-5815-450808

Email grace@grace.org.pk

Web www.grace.org.pk

Project Office Gilgit

North Beacon House Public School & College,
Danyore, Gilgit, Gilgit-Baltistan

Phone +92-5811-456757

Email grace@grace.org.pk

Web www.grace.org.pk