



GRACE  
ASSOCIATION  
PAKISTAN

The grassroots  
association  
for community  
empowerment

# PROGRESS REPORT 2007-2011

15

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





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



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# HISTORY OF CHANGE

**The history begins since 1992 when the founder 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 organizations in place to address socioeconomic problems.**

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





**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 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, Mr. Khadim 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 com-

munity 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, led by Khadim Hussain the group of seven community development volunteers organized a meeting in Islamabad to review the progress of the organization taking into account successes and failures, and lessons learnt, to address challenges that lay ahead.

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 which is dedicated to making a significant contribution towards alleviating the social conditions of vulnerable communities living in the least developed parts of the country. In February 2007, GRACE was registered as a Non Profit Organization (NPO) under the Companies Ordinance 1984 with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).



# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

**The reporting years have been both busy and exciting for GRACE Association as we celebrate the successful implementation of several 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 20 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 a two-year contract with the US Embassy in Islamabad to provide English access for 80 teenagers from economically disadvantaged communities to learn the powerful tool that is the



**Introduction** 1. Mr. Mustafa Menai, Manager Program Development AKESP-Karachi, his wife Ms Subuhi Asheer with Khadim Hussain and WAFA Members at Al-Zahra Girls School Kwardu (2001). 2. Khadim Hussain Founder GRACE Association working at GRACE Program Office Skardu (2009)

# “ we promote peace and development throughout the country and the whole world

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 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 organized 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.

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.

Looking to the future, we have plans to promote primary education, early childhood care and development services, the establishment of community schools networks. At the same time we continue our collaboration with, and support for, women health workers and People's Primary Health Care Initiatives Pakistan for mother and child health care services, family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention measures. We are also looking forward to enhancing our skills in providing services for the community-based rehabilitation of people with disabilities, homeless people, women and the elderly.

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 and replicate successful projects in their villages. 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.

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's efforts contribute to a world which recognizes, respects, and values the socioeconomic, political, legal, and environmental aspirations of marginalized and vulnerable communities — particularly women and children — on the basis of equality, to promote a sustainable, equitable prosperous, and peaceful society.

## **Mission**

GRACE endeavours to empower and improve the quality of life of the country's marginalized and vulnerable communities through welfare, participatory research and development, capacity building, promoting best practices and partnership building, advocacy and by launching sustainable and replicable innovative projects.

## **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 including Social justice & equity (rights, vulnerability, and access) and Democracy (Participation, transparency, accountability, rules and regulations) for its institutional norms and programmatic operations

# PRINCIPAL 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.



**Principal approaches** 1. OGRACE 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 agriculture.

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



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**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 inclusive quality education, early childhood care and economic development opportunities.**
- **Build and strengthen human and institutional development through training, skills enhancement and education.**
- **Enhance the access of marginalized and deprived communities to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, health services and prevention of HIV/AIDS and care.**
- **Mainstream of marginalized, extremely vulnerable and socially excluded groups and populations such as people with physical disabilities.**
- **Undertake initiatives for the reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the displaced populations affected by natural disasters.**

# MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS PERIOD 2007 TO 2011

**Our projects address issues of poverty, environmental degradation, conflict, 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 15 key successful projects.**

## 1

### **Establishment and provision of furniture and educational equipment for GRACE Public School Skardu in the collaboration of German Embassy - 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 Federal Republic Germany to the project have greatly helped improve quality of teaching and learning in the school. There are presently are more than 100 students registered at the school, of whom 50 percent are female and 15 percent children with disabilities.

## 2

### **Construction of 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





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**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





**Construction 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.





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**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





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**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 (2009/2010)**

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

### **Provision of 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





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**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. Deputy Commissioner Skardu for women Muhammad Ali Yuguvi addressing the public. 5. Council meeting of the Disabled People Organization (DPOs) at Islamabad (2011).

## “ 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 – Water Tank 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 Water Tank. 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 Volunteering 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 to 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](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org/en/vol/stories/online_volunteers_of_2009.html) for more details.

## 9

### **Rescue and relief services for flood-affected village communities in 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 2010-2012**

ACCESS to English Language, Cultural Understanding and Personal Development for Economically Disadvantaged Adolescents in Skardu

GRACE Association runs a two-year English Access Microscholarship Program at GRACE Public School Skardu, with sponsorship provided by the US Department of State. GRACE Association Chief Executive, Khadim Hussain, and the Public Affairs Officer at the US Embassy in Islamabad, Mr. Larry Schwartz, signed the agreement on April 6, 2010.

This Program is in direct response to the growing demand for improved English language skills in international and national communication. We will implement the two-year Access Programme in underprivileged rural and urban areas of Gilgit-Baltistan.





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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.



“ the Programme’s goal is to prepare students in both written and spoken English, so that they can integrate into the global marketplace

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.

#### Programme Implementation

In addition to his duties as GRACE Association Programme Coordinator, Mr. Shamshad Hussain also serves as the ACCESS Coordinator. The Program now successfully provides education for 40 male and 40 female students in the 14-16 age range.

Our 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. Four qualified language instructors 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.

According to the ACCESS students this is the first ever programme of its kind in Skardu, 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 Eng-

lish. Their reflections are very encouraging, mentioning often 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.

#### Certificate of Award and Completion

Participation and completion of the two-year ACCESS Program will respectively be recorded in the form of certificates for successful students, signed in April 2012 by the US Ambassador to Pakistan.

We are very encouraged that this Program will continue for 100 students in Skardu and a further 80 students in Khaplu Ganche district during 2012-2014. GRACE Association is endeavouring to continue the program in Skardu and in other districts of Gilgit-Baltistan in future too.



**English Access Microscholarship Program.** 1. Mr Khadim Hussain (GRACE), and Mr. Larry Schwartz, Public Affairs officer, at the US Embassy in Islamabad, signing the collaboration agreement (2010). 2. Access student Wajida as host, Shahid Hussain Rubina Ehsan, in a talk show on education. 3. Mr. W. Shamsad Hussain with Access faculty members, Muhammad Mir, Mehreen, Sajjad Hussain, M. Ibrahim and students. 4. Awarded Access students. 5. Mr. Nisar Abbas, Dr. Uzma Saleem, and Mr Khadim Hussain celebrating the program's first anniversary.



“ in just 2 months, the stone-and-steel-wire construction of 500-foot long, 4-foot wide, 4-foot 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-foot long, 4-foot wide, 4-foot 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-foot 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**

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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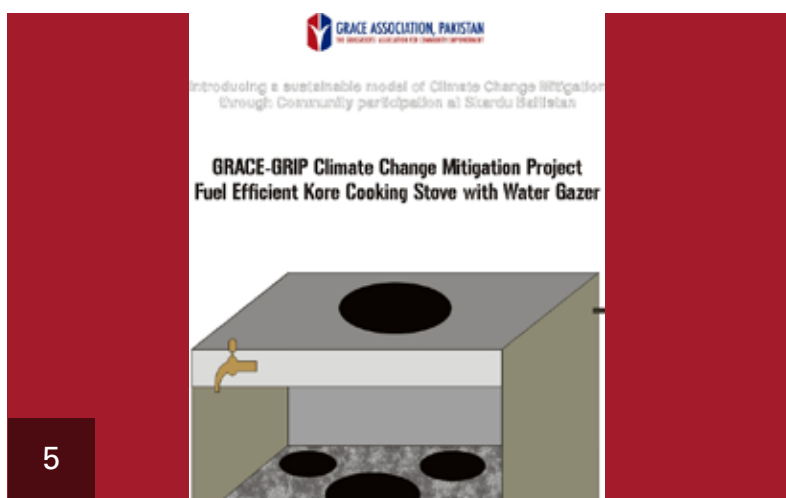
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**GRIP project award.** 1, 2, 3. A sustainable model of community-based climate change mitigation. A project carrying out by GRACE staff at Skardu. 4. Mr. John Fareedullah Afridi, Mr. Toshihiro Tanaka, Country Director UNDP Pakistan, and Mr. Kamran 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

### **A fresh, new branding. 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.

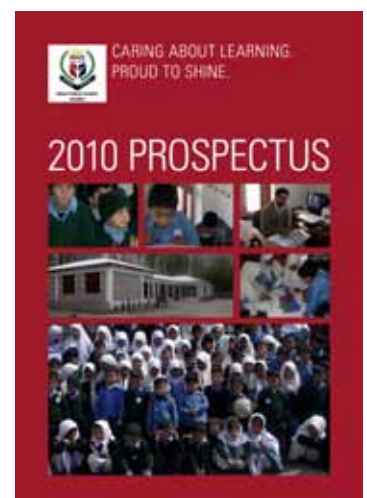
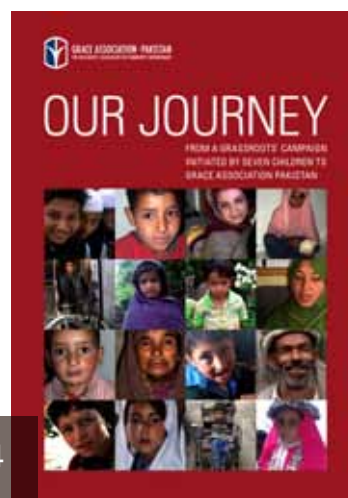
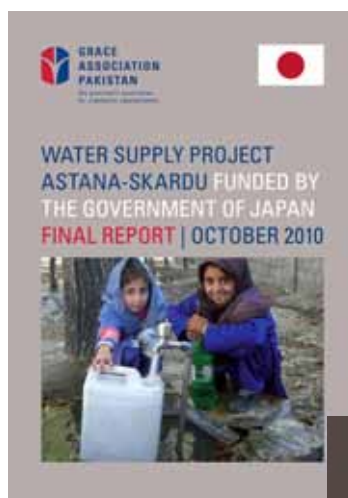
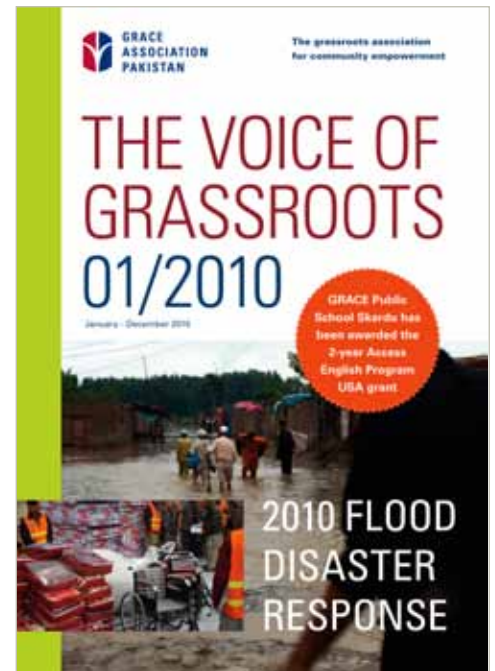
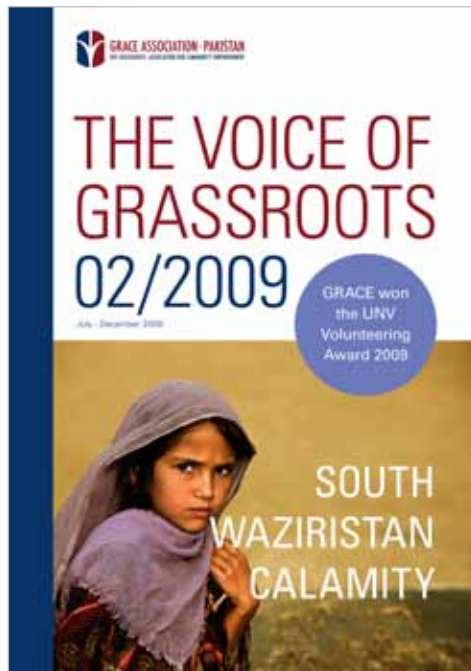
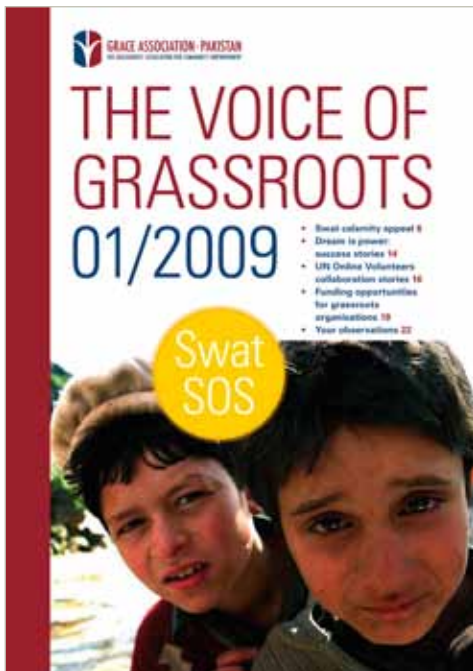
We have tried to make every page a more enjoyable experience. It shows not just what we select, but what readers, via feedback, are finding most interesting. Pages are regularly updated, so it will be worth returning to more often.

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.



# WHO BENEFITS FROM OUR PROGRAMMES?

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

**These programmes are particularly directed at two highly vulnerable groups - women and children.**

**These populations are categorized under:**

- **Children not attending school**
- **Extremely poor people**
- **People in disaster areas**
- **People with disabilities (PWDs)**
- **Landless people**
- **Vulnerable youth**
- **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

Project: English Access Microscholarship Program Skardu (April 2010-2012)

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)

## Membership and Networking Organizations

- Association of Global Humanists and Ethics, Pakistan
- Baltistan NGOs Network (BNN)
- CBR Network, Pakistan
- Helping Oppressed and Promoting Education Organization, Kohat
- Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) International, Pakistan
- Network of Organizations Working for People With Disabilities, Pakistan (NOWPDP)

- Organization for Development and Peace, Multan
- Rehabilitation International (RI), New York
- Vision 21st Pakistan
- Indus Development Society Layyah Punjab

## 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
- Dr. Phil Bartale/Phil Organization
- Volunteer Match, USA





# VOLUNTEERING AT GRACE

## Volunteering for peace and development

### Story 1

#### **Evelin Nõmmiste (Estonia)** **In person volunteer**

A few months ago, lying on my bed in a hotel room in India, I was trying to decide if I should go home like planned or stay for longer.

Reading the news about Pakistan made me think of the country again, as I had always wanted to go there. I had heard only positive reviews and often amazing stories about the country and its people from Westerners who had been there.

I typed into Google 'volunteer in Pakistan' and ended up finding GRACE Association Pakistan on the internet. I was positively surprised when I received a response

to my e-mail only after 10-15 minutes after I had sent it. So, that is how I started communication with Mr. Khadim Hussain Volunteers Manager GRACE.

As I soon found out, GRACE is a small local NGO but I was very impressed with the amount of work they have done so far and the professionalism that I could see from their web-site. My aim was to get field experience and to work closely with the beneficiaries and local population, so working for a grassroots organization was very suitable for me.

I came to Pakistan in October 2009, which was probably one of the deadliest months in terms of terrorist attacks in Pakistan. The tense security situation in Islamabad was probably best felt due to numerous



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**Evelin Nommiste, volunteer.** 1 and 2. Ms. Evelin Nõmmiste from Estonia was one of the in-person volunteers interesting in engaging with our work. She assisted our staff and community members in project planning and management activities during her stay in Pakistan.

police check points but in general I did not feel frightened. Islamabad is a very calm, quiet, clean and modern city and it was very difficult to think of something bad happening in such a peaceful place. So maybe this contrast was the reason that I did not feel threatened at all.

The first two weeks I spent in GRACE's Islamabad office with Khadim and Mr. Shamshad. They were very focused and hard-working in office work as well as during meetings, networking and coordinating activities.

After this, I traveled together with Khadim to Baltistan, Skardu, where GRACE's Program Office is located. Astana village, located 4 km from Skardu, was going to become my home for the next 1, 5 months.

The Skardu office was located nearest to GRACE Public School, so I was daily interacting with all GRACE staff, the teachers and the Program Office staff. They were all very welcoming and made me feel like home from the first day onwards.

My main host and supervisor was Mr. Muhammad Qasim, the Program Coordinator in the office. Mr. Qasim was very supportive and took good care of everything during my stay.

My new home in Astana was with a host family in the village. It was a very large family with relatives and extended family all over the village. I was living together with 5 of the 10 sisters and 2 brothers of the family and their mother and father. The family welcomed me as their own daughter and I really enjoyed living with them.

Baltistan is a very peaceful region and very different from the rest of Pakistan. It is also the only region in Pakistan at the moment where many foreign governments have not issued a travel warning.

The people of Baltistan are notorious for their hospitality and kindness.

As it is one of the remotest areas in the world, there is still a sort of innocence and sincerity prevalent in the people that I have not seen anywhere else in the world. It really is like a world of its own and living there makes you forget that there is a different and more complicated world behind those mountains.

Finding true pure happiness is the easiest thing in

Baltistan, it is around you everywhere, in every small moment of the day. The simplicity of life in every sense was probably what I enjoyed most in Baltistan.

The things I enjoyed less were probably the lack of facilities and problems caused by that. As we had electricity only 8 hours a day in the evenings, it was difficult to write and most work had to be done in the evenings. Lack of electricity meant also lack of warm water and difficulties in washing yourself.

As it was winter time, the temperature dropped down to minus degrees and with the limited small kerosene heaters, the rooms never became really warm, so the feeling of coldness was always present.

Lack of basic infrastructure and facilities is probably also the biggest problem for development in the region. The local schools close down for 3 months during winter time because it is cold and not possible to heat the school buildings. And due to this children's education suffers.

Also any modern equipment in the houses or schools is useless if there is no reliable electricity supply.

Many villages still lack access to clean water and women spend most of their time bringing water from faraway sources. Providing basic facilities would probably be the start for any development process in the region.

Most of my work in Skardu involved administrative support to the Program Office. One of my work tasks in Skardu was to assist in coordinating a water supply project in Astana that was funded by the Japanese government and was initiated by GRACE during my stay.

I think this project was very important for the community and a good start for their development and empowerment. So I think GRACE is on the right track to accomplish its mission towards its vision and the organization is doing a lot to bring positive change in the community.

I enjoyed my stay in Skardu Baltistan very much and although the local people often stressed that they would like to learn a lot from me, it was probably I who learned a lot from them even if they did not realize that.



# VOLUNTEERING AT GRACE

## Volunteering for peace and development

### Story 2

#### **Rohan Chalise (Nepal)** **Online Volunteer**

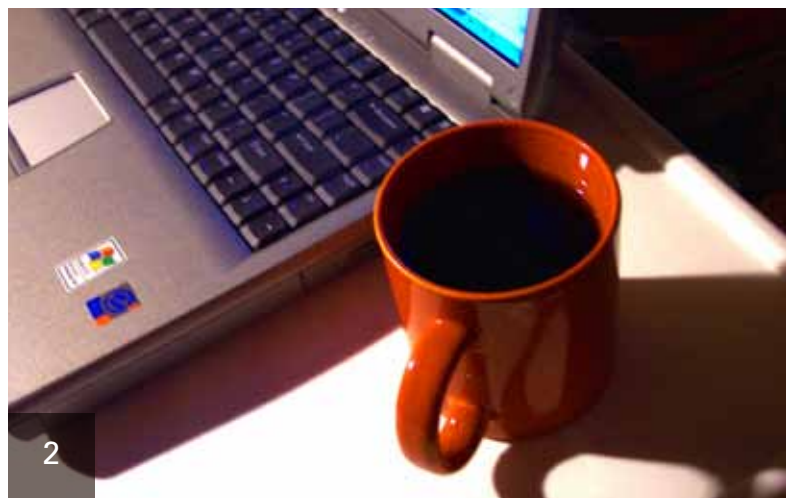
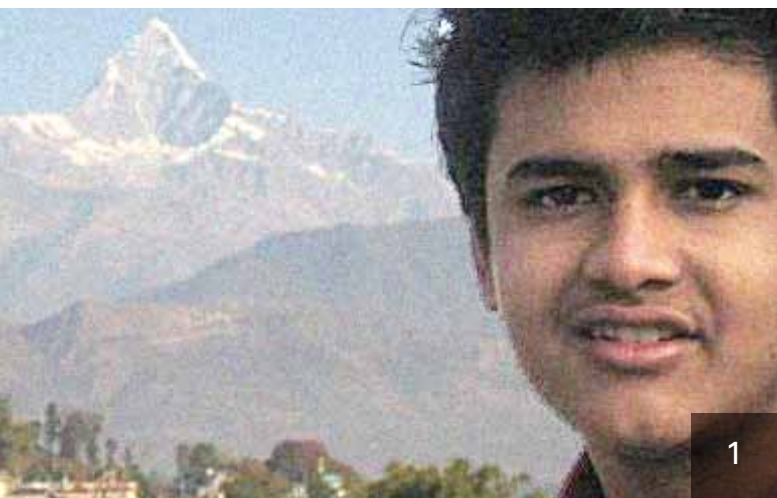
As in early childhood, I got chance to live and experience in different rural parts of Nepal. Since the day I was born, I used to get all the comforts and luxury as a child. I slowly grew up in that environment and found some differences between myself and those people living in those villages.

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 PLANS 2012-2015

**We will continue promoting the political, legal, and socioeconomic aspirations of marginalized and vulnerable communities (particularly women and children) in order to create a sustainable, equitable, prosperous and peaceful society.**

- Expansion of English Access Microscholarship Program in Khaplu and other districts of Gilgit-Baltistan. Its purpose is to link this isolated region with the world through English.
- Provision of safe drinking water to deprived village communities in Shagari Bala, Ghuwari Ganche, Baltistan.
- Construction of flood protection walls in flood-affected villages, including Kharku in Ganche, Bilamik Rondu and Basho Skardu.
- Networking and partnership building with national and international organizations including PPAF, TVO, PBM, UN Agencies, USAID, AusAid, GTZ, EC, HRDN, HIV/AIDS Prevention Networks, LCDDP, GCF and international research organizations such as Centre on Philanthropy.
- Promote female education and empower disadvantaged communities through socioeconomic development and establishing GRACE-INDUS Public School in rural Layyah Punjab.
- Research on local philanthropy in Gilgit-Baltistan Pakistan: "The Soul for Development of Third Sector & Social Empowerment and formation of Regional Advocacy Forum for the Promotion of Indigenous Philanthropy and Social Change."
- Development and value addition of natural resource-based micro-enterprises for climate change mitigation, poverty reduction and community empowerment in Tormik Rondu, Kachura, Shigar and Kharman Skardu.
- Revival and preservation of cultural healthy foods of Baltistan through research, awareness raising and social mobilization.
- Social mobilization and implementation of model projects for Collective Livestock Enterprise Development for poverty alleviation and cultural preservation.
- Promotion of Eco-tourism in Gilgit Baltistan.
- Promotion of Girls' Education in Diamer, Astore and Baltistan.
- Disaster Risk Management Programme Rural, Haripur Khyber-Pakhtoonkhawa (KPK).
- Development of District Level Advocacy forum(s), including multi-stakeholders (duty bearers and rights holders) to promote the concept and implementation of rights-based approaches

# ANNEX 1

## GRACE Association Pakistan team December 2010

### **Board of Directors**

Mrs Saba Quadir, MA Education  
(Educationist)

Mr Muhammad Hassan, MBA Marketing

Ms Sadia Ajab Khan, MBA  
(Hospitality and Tourism Management Expert)

Mr Khadim Hussain, MA Economics  
(Social Activist and Community Development  
Specialist)

Mr Shamshad Hussain, MBA  
(Marketing, Hospitality and Tourism Management  
Expert)

### **Active Online Volunteers**

Ms Kristin V. Bielke, online fundraising supporter

Mr Andrew Carvan, copy editor (UN Online Volunteer)

Ms Yvonne Nelson, designer (UN Online Volunteer)

Ms Laura Reveni Ike, online communication assistant

Ms Jagoda St., webmaster

### **Senior Management Staff**

Mr Khadim Hussain, Founder and Chief Executive

Mr Shamshad Hussain, Program Coordinator

Mr Muhammad Azam, Legal Advisor

Mr Wasim Siddiqi, Chartered Accountant/Auditor

Mr Suhail Mehmood, Corporate Consultant




# ANNEX 2

## Financial Statement Balance Sheet

WASEEM SIDDIQI & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

GRACE ASSOCIATION  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30-06-2010

	NOTE	2010 Amount (Rs)	2009 Amount (Rs)
<b><u>PROPERTY &amp; ASSETS</u></b>			
Fixed Assets (cost less accumulated Depreciation)	1	206,868	317,288
		<b>206,868</b>	<b>317,288</b>
<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>			
Cash and Bank Balances	2	294,693	9,366
Advances		110,500	-
		<b>405,193</b>	<b>9,366</b>
		<b>612,061</b>	<b>326,654</b>
<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>			
Provisions, Accrued and Other Charges	3	113,000	56,483
Project Accounts	4	258,989	1,583
		<b>371,989</b>	<b>58,066</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)		240,072	268,588
		<b>612,061</b>	<b>326,654</b>

  
Chief Executive

  
Director

# ANNEX 2

## Financial Statement

### Receipt & Expenditure Account

WASEEM SIDDIQI & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

GRACE ASSOCIATION  
RECEIPT & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2010

	2010 AMOUNT (RS)	2009 AMOUNT (RS)
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>520,200</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Membership Fee	21,125	-
Rent Exp	55,900	12,000
Salary Exp	191,667	276,000
Utilities Exp	2,917	3,489
Printing & Stationary	7,523	9,219
Internet & communication	9,617	12,261
Postage	370	814
Rep & Maint	-	1,635
Conveyance/Travelling	30,972	6,350
Bank Charges	1,965	530
Website Expenses	10,000	-
Misc Expenses	24,300	1,400
Grace Public School Expenses	2,175	15,275
Professional Charges	50,000	15,000
Audit Fee	25,000	25,000
Out of Pocket Exp	5,000	5,000
Depreciation	110,424	110,424
	(548,955)	(494,397)
Bank Profit	239	366
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(28,516)	(122,801)
Surplus/(Deficit) b/f	268,588	391,389
Surplus/(Deficit) c/f to B/S	<b>240,072</b>	<b>268,588</b>

Chief Executive

Director

# ANNEX 2

## Financial Statement

### Notes to the accounts 1

WASEEM SIDDIQI & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

GRACE ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2010

	2010 AMOUNT (RS)	2009 AMOUNT (RS)
<b>2 CASH AND BANK BALANCES</b>		
Cash at Bank Saving Accounts(PKR)	54,618	4,387
Cash at Bank Current Accounts(PKR)	168,423	-
Cash at Bank Current Accounts(Dollar)	63,735	-
Cash in Hand	7,717	4,979
	<b>294,693</b>	<b>9,366</b>
<b>3 PROVISIONS, ACCRUED &amp; OTHER CHARGES</b>		
Audit Fee	40,000	45,000
Out of Pocket Expenses	20,000	10,000
Professional Charges	50,000	-
Income Tax Deducted Payable	2,700	1,200
Provision for utility bills	300	253
	<b>113,000</b>	<b>56,453</b>
<b>4 PROJECT ACCOUNTS</b>		
4.1 Disability Support Project	1,583	1,583
4.2 Water Supply Project	183,693	-
4.3 English Access Program	73,713	-
	<b>258,989</b>	<b>1,583</b>
<b>4.1 DISABILITY SUPPORT PROJECT</b>		
Opening	1,583	-
Donation from Global Giving Foundation	-	34,783
Expenses for disability rehabilitation	-	(33,200)
	<b>1,583</b>	<b>1,583</b>
<b>4.2 WATER SUPPLY PROJECT</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Receipts From Government of Japan	7,404,840	-
Mobers Contribution	178,000	-
Other Receipt	266	-
	<b>7,583,106</b>	
<b>Payments</b>		
Salaries	285,000	-
Pipes Water Supply Project	4,905,300	-
Fittings Water Supply project	1,053,785	-
Transportation	265,000	-
Water tank	639,300	-
Rent	80,000	-
Stationery	33,380	-
Bank Charges	3,948	-
Transferred to Grace Association, Pakistan	133,700	-
	<b>7,399,413</b>	
	<b>183,693</b>	<b>-</b>




# ANNEX 2


## Financial Statement

### Notes to the accounts 2

WASEEM SIDDIQI & Co.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

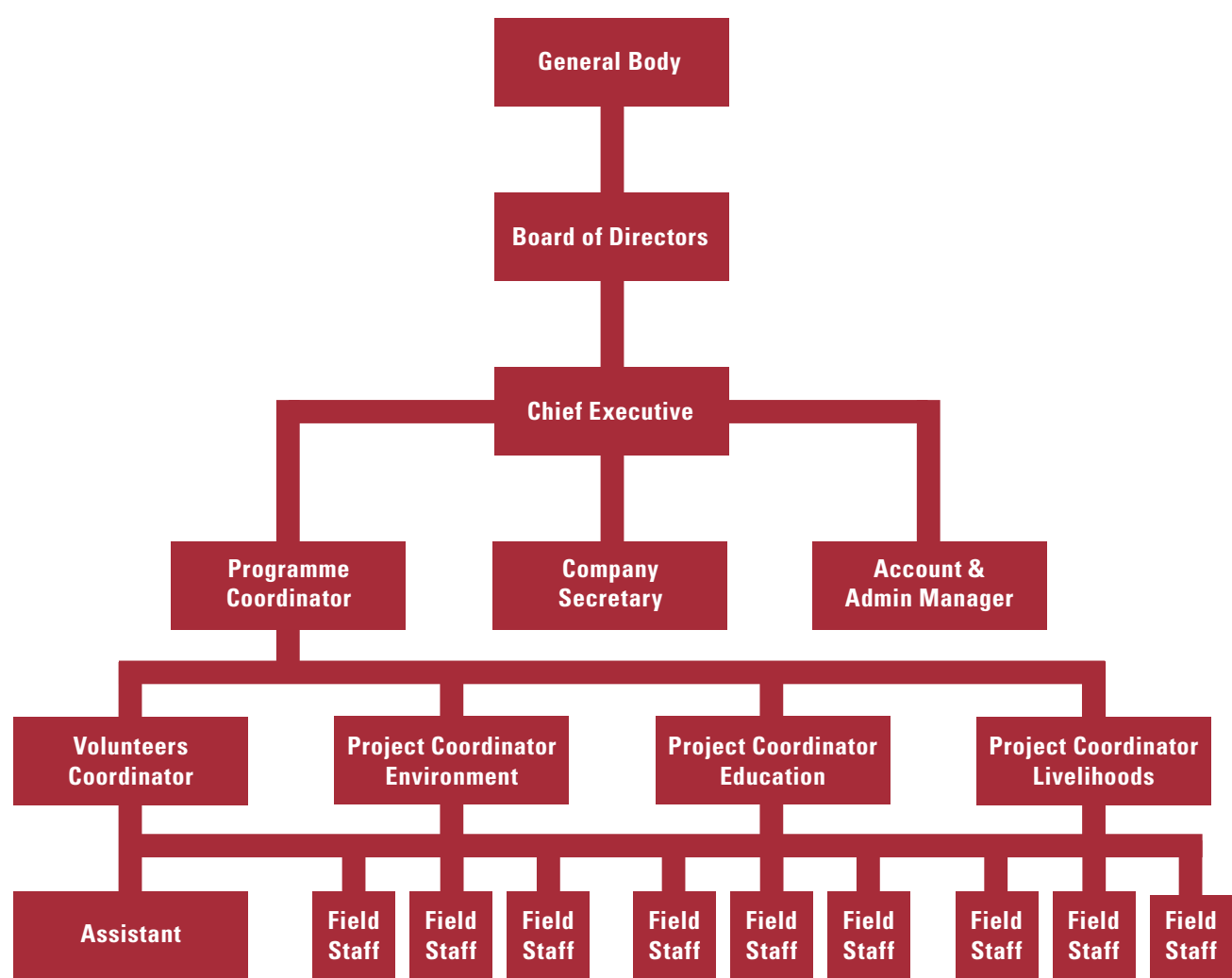
4.3	<b>ENGLISH ACCESS PROGRAM</b>		
	Receipts from AMIDEAST	1,126,638	-
	Receipts from GRACE accounts	110,557	-
		<u>1,237,195</u>	-
	Less: Expenditure		
	Salary Instructors (Instruction)	274,992	-
	Printing & Stationery	359,023	-
	LCD TV	76,999	-
	Tape Recorders	17,026	-
	Furniture	78,549	-
	Book Shelves	59,999	-
	Travelling & Conveyance	204,000	-
	Utilities	5,035	-
	Advertisement Expenses	20,500	-
	Bank Charges	1,892	-
	Transferred to Grace Account	65,484	-
		<u>(1,163,482)</u>	-
		<u>73,713</u>	-
5	<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
	Membership Fees	4,500	-
	Members Contribution	147,000	176,200
	Other Donation	235,000	195,030
	Water Supply Project	133,700	-
		<u>520,200</u>	<u>371,230</u>

  
Chief Executive

  
Director

# ANNEX 3

## Organogram



# GET INVOLVED

## Make a donation

GRACE relies on the generosity of individuals and private foundations for helping bring the lifelong gift of literacy to children in our country. If you would like to support our efforts, make a contribution today.

For a direct bank transfer, please include the following details:

- Bank Name: MCB BANK (LTD) - Branch No. 0597
- Address: Abpara Market Branch Islamabad
- Tel: +92-51-2827010, +92-51-2270290
- City/ Country: Islamabad Pakistan
- Account Name: GRACE ASSOCIATION PAKISTAN
- Account No.: 0224810611001321
- Swift Code: MUCBPKKA
- Post code: 44000

Name and address of the organization:

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

GRACE confirms all donations in the form of an official receipt. If you have any questions, please contact us.

## 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 Northern Pakistan. Visit our website for current open positions: [grace.org.pk/take\\_volunteer](http://grace.org.pk/take_volunteer)

## Take action!







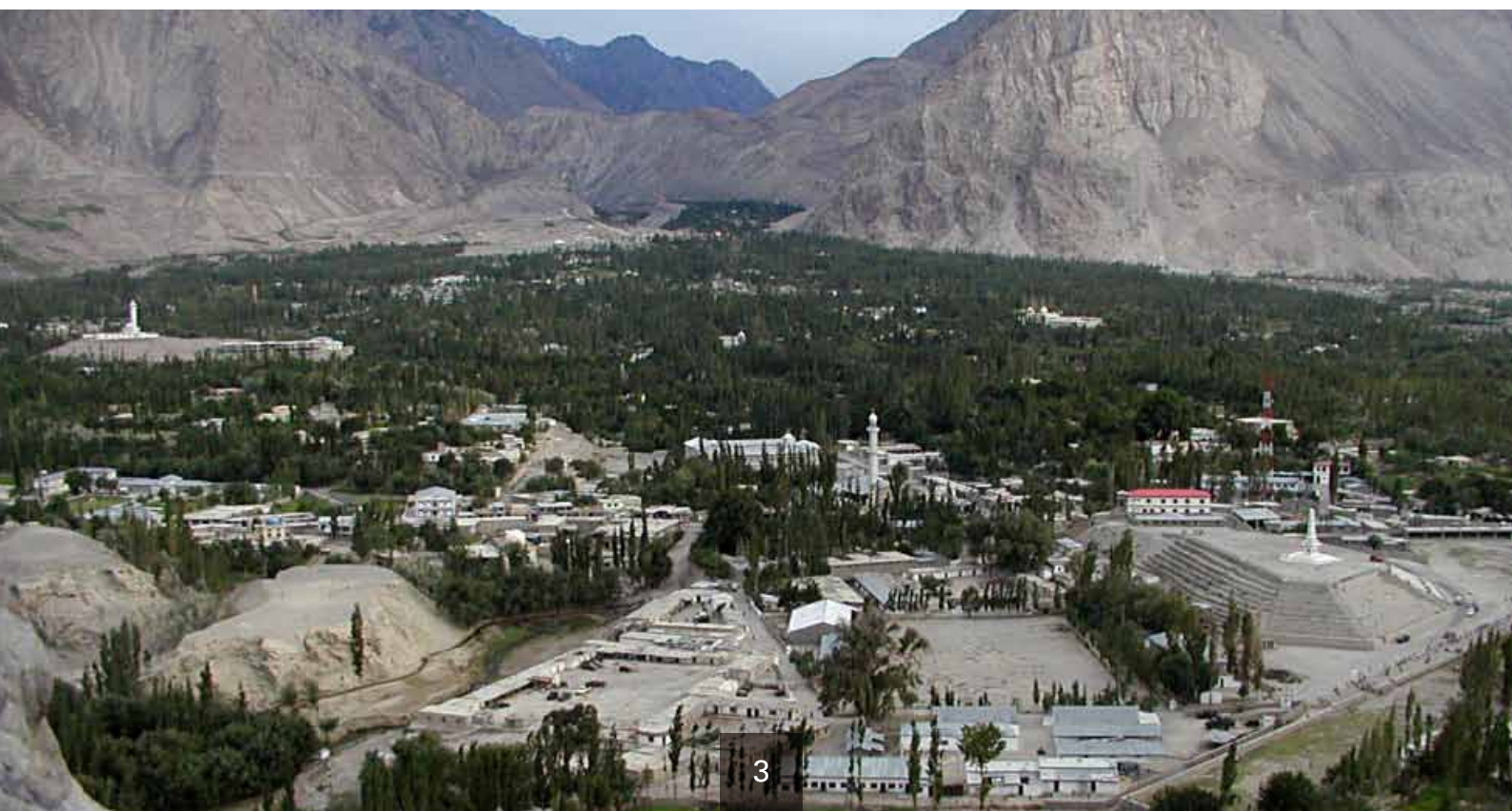




1



2



3



4



5

**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 2007-2011

### Managing Editor

Khadim Hussain

### Coordination team members

Shamshad Hussain

Muhammad Qasim

Muhammad Nazir

Muhammadullah Khan

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Katie Ehmann (UN Online Volunteer)

Yvonne Nelson (UN Online Volunteer)

Marian Salema (UN Online Volunteer)

### Art director/designer

Yvonne Nelson (UN Online Volunteer)

### Images

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Over the past one and half decade and true to its founding ideal, GRACE is determined to continuing growing, developing, improving and expanding all its projects. Believing that the journey is a never-ending process, we are heavily engaged in setting new trends and new challenges

//



**GRACE  
ASSOCIATION  
PAKISTAN**

**The grassroots  
association  
for community  
empowerment**



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