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AKDN

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Autumn Newsletter: *Pakistan edition*



Accelerate Prosperity organizes ImpactInvest 2019 Conference

28-29 September 2019: Accelerate Prosperity (AP) organized the AP ImpactInvest 2019, one of the largest impact investment conferences of Pakistan in Islamabad, alongside the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan to illustrate economic opportunities in Northern Pakistan and showcase AP's activities and plans across Pakistan. The conference was attended by 150 participants including

representatives from diplomatic missions of Canada, United States, Norway, Italy, France, Kyrgyzstan Switzerland and Japan; representatives from the Government of Pakistan; Pakistani diaspora; business executives; and representatives from the Asian Development Bank, International Finance Corporation, UNDP, UNICEF, PPAF, Market Development Facility (Palladium Group), Arif Habib Group, and The Indus Entrepreneurs etc. Around 140 entrepreneurs representing 78 businesses shared their stories, products and services over the course of the conference. The Chief Guest of the opening session, Mr. Zubair Khalid, Chairman of the Board of Investment, Pakistan, praised the overall work of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in Pakistan and emphasized the need for the Government and the private sector to work jointly to realize the economic opportunities in Pakistan.



Entrepreneurs representing their businesses at the AP ImpactInvest

The Guest of Honor of the event, Ms. Marguax McDonald, Senior Trade Commissioner of the High Commission of Canada to Pakistan, praised the role of AKDN and its partnership with Global Affairs Canada to develop communities. She referred to such gatherings as an incubator in their own right as they help entrepreneurs unlock networks and opportunities. The two-day event concluded with a closing session discussing the new Work Initiative of Aga Khan Foundation on the future of work and a note of thanks by Mr. Javed Iqbal, Vice-Chairman Aga Khan Rural Support Programme.



An emerging entrepreneur during networking mixer at the AP ImpactInvest

AKES,P students win awards in a tech competition

21 July 2019: The top two prizes at a Tech Fair in Gilgit-Baltistan were won by the Aga Khan Higher Secondary School (AKHSS), Gilgit students in an outstanding achievement. "The dual pressure to focus on my studies and fix the errors in our app was the biggest struggle I went through in the days before the Tech Fair," says Najam Ul Hassan, a grade 12 student at the AKHSS Gilgit who, along with his schoolmate Rashid Jan of grade nine, won the first prize for their job portal application, "EZY". The app is designed to help people search for jobs based on their skills and qualifications, an essential service, Najam feels, given the high rate of unemployment amongst the youth. The second prize was won by a



AKHSS Gilgit students at the TechFair

group of four students for the application Smart Study. As the name suggests, Smart Study is designed to help students in their academic pursuits, and it does so by collecting educational material on a single platform. An AKHSS Hunza project, an app called Book Buddies, won the fourth prize. Book Buddies is designed to help the students of different Aga Khan Schools connect with each other to share problems and pass on advice. Along with being recognized as winners, the students also received cash awards. The students who competed in the Fair were part of a tech boot camp in which 140 students from different schools in the region participated. Out of these, 37 students competed with 12 projects at the Fair. Dr. Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor of Karakoram International University was the Chief Guest at the event. The Tech Fair was organized by TechSpace in collaboration with the Pakistan-US Alumni Network and with support from Accelerate Prosperity Pakistan.



AKHSS Hunza students at the Tech Fair

AKF(Pak) and AKAH,P secure a grant to promote safety of vulnerable mountain communities

24 July 2019: The Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan [AKF(Pak)] and the Aga Khan Planning and Building Service (AKPBS) signed a grant implementation agreement with the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) for a project titled “Promoting Integrated Mountain Safety in Northern Pakistan (PIMSNP)” funded by NDRMF with co-financing by AKF. The agreement was signed by Mr. Akhtar Iqbal, Chief Executive Officer AKF(Pak) and Mr. Nawab Ali Khan, Chief Executive Officer Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan(AKAH,P). Also present at the ceremony were representatives from



L to R: CEO AKF(Pak), GM NDRMF, CEO AKAH,P at the grant signing ceremony

AKF(Pak), AKAH,P and NDRMF including Mr. Irshad Abbasi, Director Rural Development, Civil Society AKF(Pak); Mr. Kazim Raza, Chief Financial Officer AKAH,P; and Mr. Khurram Khaliq Khan, General Manager Program and Operations Group NDMRF. The outcome of this project is to protect and make resilient communities vulnerable to the negative impacts of multiple hazards in northern areas of Pakistan including Mansehra, Chitral, Gilgit, Skardu, Ghanche and Hunza.

Considering the particular vulnerability of mountain communities to sudden and slow on-set natural disasters, PIMSNP is designed to protect and enhance the resilience of these communities through hard and soft interventions. The former will include retrofitting of public

buildings and construction of mitigation infrastructure as well as installation of early warning systems. The latter includes community mobilization for formation of community level disaster risk management committees at local/revenue village and union council levels, capacity building in Community Based Disaster Risk Management, and formation of Community Emergency Response Teams along with provision of emergency response tool kits. The project will be implemented in Gilgit, Hunza, Skardu, and Ghanche districts of Gilgit-Baltistan, and Mansehra and Chitral districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa benefitting approximately 159,000 people. The proposed interventions are in line with Pakistan's National Disaster Management Plan and National Flood Protection Plan IV.

Improving livelihoods through skill development

25-year old Syed Murad Shah is a resident of Rech valley which lies in Khot Union Council District Chitral. Owing to its remoteness, this valley lacks basic facilities as a result of which local residents have to travel to Chitral town or Booni to purchase basic goods and avail other services. Murad Shah's father, Mr. Dinar Mualim Shah, was the owner of a water mill in the village and was the only bread earner of his family. He passed away during a flash flood in 2015. Murad, who was enrolled in grade ten at the time, had to quit his education and work as a laborer to provide for his family because he was the only son. However, his income was not enough to fulfill the needs of his family.



Murad at his work station

In early 2018, a score card survey conducted in Chitral identified his household as poor. In 2019, he was approached by AKRSP for mobile repairing training. He received a one-month training on mobile repairing in Drosh Institute of Computer and Technical Education. By the end of the training he was provided with a toolkit enabling him to start his work. With the help of the toolkit, he created a workshop in his house where he would repair mobiles of villagers who approached him. Being the only mobile repairing expert in the area, Murad is currently earning a reasonable income and has expanded his business by opening an Easy Paisa shop. "As there is no other mobile repairing shop in the whole Rech Valley, almost all the people visit my center to repair their cell phones. That is why some days my per day income exceeds above Rs. 3000. I am very much satisfied and I'm grateful to AKRSP for giving a ray of hope in times of despair and also for training me in a field I always desired. I am hopeful I will be able to open a shop and extend my business in near future".

Gulab becomes a change agent through AQCESS

Gulab works as a Lady Health Worker (LHW) in District Nagar, Gilgit-Baltistan. Under the Access to Quality Care through Extending and Strengthening Health Systems (AQCESS) project, funded by Global Affairs Canada and Aga Khan Foundation Canada, Gulab received trainings on identification and management of malnourished children, gender-based violence, and behavior

change communication for family planning and other Maternal, Newborn and Child Health related themes. These trainings were part of a wider effort under AQCESS to include the community in decision making by forming Facility Health Management Committees and Village Health Committees comprising of community members and health workers. Gulab was assigned a target of reaching mothers and children under the age of five through social mobilization activities. She managed to screen more than 184 children in 2019 and provided awareness to mothers on healthy diets and birth spacing methods.

The gender-based violence training she received served as an impetus for Gulab to form a committee to address social and gender injustices in her village by sensitizing the community about equal rights and opportunities for young girls and women. She uses non-traditional methods like role-playing and theatre in schools and community centres to highlight gender disparity and violence against girls and women. Gulab has also started a research study on gender-based violence with the help of her husband. As a result of support under the AQCESS project, Gulab now earns around Rs. 6,000 to 10,000 a month and hopes to scale up reproductive health commodities and contraceptives through this money. For her services, Gulab was recognized as the “Best Lady Health Worker” in all of District Nagar in 2018 by the District Commissioner.



Gulab during a community awareness session

Science exhibition organised for government schools

“During my 14 years as a teacher in this valley, I have never seen such a creative academic activity and we are thankful to the Aga Khan University-Institute for Educational Development’s (AKU-IED) Professional Development Centre Chitral (PDCC) for helping the students unleash their potential through this Science Exhibition. I am confident that these young scientists will go a long way.” These were the remarks of Mr. Qadir Jan, Principal Government Higher Secondary School Garam Chashma towards the end of a day-long Science Exhibition held in Garam Chashma. As many as 16 primary and secondary schools came together to participate in this Exhibition, as part of the Aga Khan Foundation's School Improvement



Students at the science exhibition held in Garam Chashma

Programme (SIP) implemented by the AKU-IED PDC Chitral. More than one third of these were Government Girls' primary and secondary schools. The interest of students and particularly that of girls was noteworthy. One of the students of Government Girls High School, Murdan summed up her experience in these words, "We girls do not have access to public spaces. We play out in the open like our male fellows do, but this rare event gave us the opportunity to showcase our potential. Now we are confident to face people and express our ideas." A group of students from GHSS Garam Chashma, who had developed a modern model of a water-mill using electric energy believed that by working on their project they have understood the concepts of various forms of energy and their application in daily life.

To enter this Science Exhibition, schools developed intra-school projects and the best were picked for the valley level exhibition. Students selected covered a wide-range topics from basic biological concepts to the conversion of energy after the big-bang theory. Hundreds of visitors including students, parents and community members visited the stalls and lauded students for their efforts. A team of 3 judges visited each stall to hear a presentation and assessed the projects against given criteria. The top three projects in each category (primary and secondary) were awarded trophies and the rest were presented with souvenirs for their participation. Faculty members of AKU-IED PDCC present on the occasion were thrilled to witness the enthusiasm of students and teachers. The SIP has certainly set the wheels in motion to transform the educational landscape of Chitral.



Female students showcasing their projects at the exhibition

AKAH,P sensitizes AKDN leadership on greenhouse gas emission and management

The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat Pakistan (AKAH,P) organized sessions to sensitize the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) leadership on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and management and to train focal persons on using reporting tools. This exercise was done in response to the establishment of the AKDN Environment and Climate Change Committee chaired by Prince Rahim Aga Khan. This Committee works on initiatives to reduce and reverse GHG emissions and mitigate the impact and risk of climate change amongst the communities AKDN works with. As a result, AKDN agencies are required to take into account environmental and climate change considerations in their development programs and operations. Since AKAH,P possesses technical expertise in climate change adaptation and mitigation, it has been assigned the role to sensitize other agencies and coordinate the initiation of GHG reporting process.

The AKDN leadership sensitization session was chaired by Alijah Hafiz Sherali, President Aga Khan Council for Pakistan and included participation from 30 leaders including heads of eight AKDN agencies and senior management staff. Additionally, 18 focal points were trained on technical aspects of GHG emission and reporting. In both sessions, AKAH,P briefed the participants about the background for the formation of the Committee and shared a presentation on the AKDN GHG protocols and the GHG emission management framework. As a way forward, AKDN agencies agreed to minimize and report GHG emissions at the respective agency level. The agencies also agreed to focus on afforestation. This will enable agencies to work on a few quick wins including limiting travel, minimizing use of plastic and paper; and utilization of digital technology for virtual meetings. These measures will also allow AKDN agencies to become more environmentally friendly by designing programmes which can reduce human-induced global warming.



AKDN leadership being sensitized on greenhouse gas emission and management

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Serena Sarangi: nurturing talent and making dreams come true

29 August 2019: Serena Hotel Islamabad hosted the finale of the third season of Sarangi, a music initiative by Serena Hotels that aims to nurture young talent in Pakistan. Various members of the diplomatic corps, business community and local community were present at the finale. The event consisted of performances by four shortlisted artists hailing from different parts of Pakistan: Humail Rajpoot, Najum Saleem, Samia Gohar and Atif Sunny. Their performances were assessed by a jury panel which consisted of renowned figures from the music industry - Zoe Viccaji, Asif Ali Santoo and Sarmad Ghafoor.

The contestants performed in front of a crowd of over 500 people, the diversity of their experiences and training reflected in their performances. The judges declared Humail and Samia the winners of the third season of Sarangi. Humail won the recording of a song and music video while Samia was awarded a full scholarship to the National College of Arts Lahore in Musicology. Sarangi, which was launched in October 2017, is part of Serena Hotel's cultural diplomacy initiative which aims at protecting and promoting the cultural heritage of Pakistan by encouraging young talents and



Winners Humail Rajpoot and Samya Gohar receiving the award from CEO Serena Hotels Mr. Aziz Boolani

giving them an opportunity to become the nation's rising stars. Through engaging social media, the music competition has, over the years, received tremendous response from across country and an incredible pool of talented singers and musicians have been identified and given opportunities.

Meet Abida – an entrepreneur from District Ghizer

Abida is a 19-year old entrepreneur hailing from District Ghizer, Gilgit-Baltistan and is a perfect example of how hard work and persistence go a long way in overcoming hardships. The second eldest of five siblings, Abida quit school after seventh grade due to health issues. Due to her interest and skill in embroidery she enrolled in a six-month training at Karakoram Area Development Organization. Meanwhile, her father took on additional work as stonemason to save Rs. 50,000 towards buying her a special Pico sewing machine so she could start working from home. After she returned from the training, she learned through her Local Support Organization that the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) had announced an entrepreneurship training session and saw this as an opportunity to utilize her new skills to start a small business and financially support her family. During the six day training, Abida learned the basics of entrepreneurship & business-planning, book-keeping, human resource management, marketing and customer service. At the end of course she submitted a comprehensive business plan for which she won an award. AKRSP awarded her with a grant of Rs. 50,000 to use towards setting up her new business while taking on five trainees for three months. At the end of the three-month period she retained one apprentice, Maryam, who is hearing and speech impaired and belongs to an ultra-poor family.



Abida's perseverance is a source of motivation for everyone

With her supplemental income, Abida's father is no longer stretched thin. In the peak season of April to November, Abida earns between Rs. 30,000 – 50,000 a month and has managed to put away Rs. 120,000 in savings in one year. She has established a regular customer base in the local market is creating linkages with businesses in Hunza. As a master trainer, Abida continues to take on three or four trainees on a rolling basis and coaches other needy and unemployed young women in her village.

Preparing teachers for early childhood care and education in government schools of Sindh

7 November 2019: The Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED) joined hands with Sindh Education and Literacy Department and UNICEF to train 1500 Teachers for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in government schools in various districts of Sindh. This training is a means to operationalize the Provincial Strategic Plan to scale-up ECCE

in Sindh in alignment with the Sindh Education Sector Plan 2019-24 and incorporates critical considerations from Sindh's ECCE Policy, Curriculum and Standards.

AKU-IED will draw from its work on early childhood teacher education and intervention research since 2002, as well as current practice and needs, to train 60 master trainers and 18 professional development teachers who will then train other teachers across Sindh. The programme recognizes the complexity of young children's experiences and is, therefore, sensitive to contextual realities, gender, class, ethnicity, language and religion. Reflective and critical thinking also forms an important part of the ECCE training to help the trainers improve their practices.



A group photo of participants at the training

Master trainers will impart acquired skills during the teacher trainings using the ECCE Training Manual as a guide which contains detailed, contextualized session plans drawing on best practice for early years educators. Each session plan integrates theory with engaging activities and actions for practice using interactive strategies. The Training Manual will be translated into Sindhi and Urdu. An accompanying ECCE Teacher Guide is also being developed in English, Sindhi and Urdu. A rigorous monitoring and evaluation procedure has been adopted to ensure quality programme delivery and to track outputs on a daily basis when the Master Trainers start training the teachers in the field.

Reviving the science behind the art of the Picture Wall

The Picture Wall of Lahore Fort represents the pinnacle of the intellectual achievements of the Mughals where deep scientific knowledge of the materials came together with artistic and architectural skills producing outstanding monuments. The fact that this wall has lasted for more than 400 years is a testimony to the traditional knowledge we have lost. The separation of science and art in modern academic is more visible in the field of conservation where it is normally expected that preserving architecture only requires the expertise of an architect.



Part of Picture Wall western facade conserved panels

The Picture Wall Project is the first conservation project in Pakistan that has heavily relied on science in understanding the nature of the historic materials used, explaining their deterioration and selecting the appropriate conservation materials and methods. The team itself is diverse, consisting of fine artists, architects, ceramists, engineers and chemists and skilled masons. In this way, modern techniques in science are being used in conservation to revive the interdisciplinary traditional knowledge that has been forgotten. To continue this revival of knowledge, it is important that the concept of conservation be introduced at the academic level.



Conservators are consolidating tile mosaic panel in prototype areas

In order to create awareness among science students about the role chemistry plays in conservation and the possibility of a career in the field, the Aga Khan Cultural Services-Pakistan presented its work at LUMS in May 2019. This is crucial because conservation science blurs the boundary between science and art and it is the only field of science that not only looks towards the future but also looks towards the past. The ultimate purpose of this is not to promote a field in science for science itself but rather for expanding the scope of conservation beyond the tangible monument.

Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about AKDN's work in Pakistan. If you have any questions about the articles, please contact Maria Hayat Khan, Programme Officer Partnerships, AKF Pakistan, at maria.khan@akdn.org.

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Please look for the next volume of the AKDN Newsletter in Winter 2020. For more information, visit our website: www.akdn.org/Pakistan