



Sungi's Best Practices



2015 - 2017



Sungi Development Foundation



Providing medical treatment for children through community led charity drives, because every life matters

In Pakistan, health care is not easily available to the marginalized, as health care facilities are not free for the people who cannot afford them. Moreover, good hospitals and doctors are mostly in major cities and they are expensive. A poor family living in a remote area of Wari, had two children, both of them suffered from a heart disease, the family could not afford their treatment. Collective efforts of the community and Sungi Development Foundation resulted in arranging money for their treatment.

In a remote area of Wari, there was a small family of four. This family had barely enough means to stay alive and to pay for their daily expenses. Their situation was worsened by both their children's medical condition. Both of their children suffered from a heart disease. Their family could not afford to take bare minimum medical care in hospitals near them rather than afford an expensive treatment of heart diseases, along with the added expense of moving to another city and getting the treatment not for one child but two. Money had to be collected to provide the needed medical care for these children.

This problem was highlighted in the Union Forum meeting, and due to Sungi's community building initiatives in bringing the community together on different platforms, the ground team of the project along with the support of the community ran an extensive donation drive in the area. No one was pressured into contributing for the cause and the privacy and pride of the victim wasn't hurt either by begging from door to door, as we believe that human integrity should never be compromised on. An organized charity drive was arranged and people contributed in it willingly.

This resulted in not only collecting the required amount of money to finance the medical bills of the two children, but it brought the community together, such that they can rely on each other and find solutions to their problems. It highlighted the fact for the community no matter how marginalized one is, systematically organized efforts can lead to solutions for their problems. Now both the children live with their parents and they are cured of their heart disease after receiving the required health care. Sungi Development Foundation has countless such feathers on their cap for bringing the community together in times of need and achieving the desired goals by community lead initiative.

To continue the good work, the forum decided to actively keep discussing such cases in the forum, also the forum members should be very vigilant, they should always be consciously aware of the fact that if they see any cases of people in need the report it in the forum. When the cases are being brought up in the forum, it will continue to arrange donation drives and helping these people in need. This ensures the sustainability of any implemented program.

Spreading awareness regarding drug abuse and countering it through effective community lead committees and counseling sessions



Pakistan sharing a border with Afghanistan, where production and selling of hashish has been a long standing problem. This problem crawled its way across the border few decades ago. Now the situation is such that a large number of Pakistani youth is addicted to using hashish. This drug is used by the youth as a recreational drug. Another problem that adds to this drug problem is the high unemployment rate amongst the youth. When they don't have something constructive to do they resort to drugs as a way of passing time. In UC Dislawar, hashish was being bought and sold extensively. Committees were formed to address this issue amongst the youth and positive results were seen.

In UC Dislawar, Sungi worked extensively towards youth's positive role and responsibilities for the betterment of their society and community. A stand up person from the community brought this to the attention of the elders of the area that smoking hashish was becoming a huge problem in the youth of the area. It was widely bought and sold under the cover and this could have grave implication on the future generation, and can overall create an unfriendly atmosphere in the area and can result in later on other hard drugs being sold in the area.

This was taken seriously and immediately a committee was formed on spot by the elder of the community with complete support of Sungi Development Foundation's field members. The roles and responsibilities of this committee were extensively explained to the members, session were conducted in properly training the youth as to how to intervene when they witness such a thing, what future measures need to be taken to stop the problem. Most importantly who to report to and how to properly counsel people who use this drug. Awareness session were conducted so that the parents and friends of people who are addicted to this drug can be counseled as to how to deal with them in a positive manner.

This resulted in significant decrease in buying and selling of the drug in the area. Moreover, community was more aware of the implications of this drug and they were well equipped to deal with such programs and approach it with positivity that does not harm the development of youth in the area.

Since the committee has been trained and counselled in regards to how to deal with people who use drugs, and how to report the buying and selling of this drug. Hence due to the formation of this committee, people take responsibility of the things going wrong in their society and once they treat it as their responsibility they keep making positive efforts towards solving this problem of drug use among the youth. Most importantly this committee will keep counselling youth in a positive way.

A story of domestic violence issues reduced through effective communication and awareness on woman rights



In Pindkargukhan, there were numerous cases of domestic violence that came to light every now and then but due to the culture of the area nothing was ever done about it. In this case a woman was a victim of domestic violence instigated by her mother in law which resulted in her husband also abusing her. She was prohibited from seeing her own parents, ultimately the woman decided to end her constant misery and go live with her parents against the wishes of her husband. This further resulted in creating a rift between the husband and wife. The woman kept quiet like many other in our society in fear of not being able to keep her family together. Peace connectors of Sungi Development Foundation were notified of this when a Forum member came forward and shared her story. Peace connectors intervened, counselled and listened to the grievances of both the husband wife and succeed in patching things up between the two of them.

Domestic violence against women by her mother in law and husband, leading to a separation which was not welcomed by the husband, wife or even both the families. Due to social pressures and pride no one took the first step to resolve the matter.

The peace connectors went separately to party A (husband) asked about his grievances with party B (Wife). Then they did the same for party B. After listening to their problems, they counselled the couple regarding how to keep their matters private and solve them rather than involving the entire family in it. Moreover, the peace makers went to the husband's family and counselled them and made them aware of how a woman leaves behind her life and settle into a new life when she marries. It is imperative that the families support her rather than create problems for her.

Peace connectors mobilized both the families to forgive and forget and reach to a decision which would be conducive to a healthy family life.

Both, husband and wife are living together happily and have a child now. Their families are aware of the fact that one should not worsen the situation between a couple. They should bridge gaps rather than widen them.

Due to the intervention of the peace makers and their positive results, they are more motivated into solving domestic issues. Moreover, they keep conducting awareness sessions for women so they know what their rights are and how they should stand up for themselves and their voice can also give courage to others who never spoke for themselves. Peacemakers keep spreading awareness and this results in a larger change in attitude towards domestic violence and women knowing their rights.



Providing free health care services by arranging free medical camps for the marginalized segment

Due to unavailability of necessary health care services available in the area. The community had to go through great inconvenience in order to avail medical services, as there was none in their immediate vicinity. Field professionals of Sungi Development Foundation contacted the health professionals in charge of the area and set up a free medical camp. Which resulted in community getting free medical treatment.

In UC Pattan Kallan, diseases of flue, stomach, blood pressure, diabetes and kidney were common and maximum cases were during the month of November 2016. Only one BHU is serving the whole UC which is totally un-sufficient and inaccessible for poor and marginalized people. That's why diseases are common in the area and no treatment of minor diseases is possible thus people use to travel to the hospitals in Abbottabad, which is located on 2 hours drive for one side. Movement of sick people is very difficult while it requires many expenses in terms of travel and treatment which is not affordable at any cost.

UF Pattan Kalan had constituted the 7 members' committee which was held responsible for contact with DHO and other health officials in DHQ hospital for free medical camp. Mentioned committee had contacted the health officials and requested to organize free medical camp in village Khokhriyala which is the central place for 4 other villages. Health Officials approved the request for free medical camp.

In result of the UF efforts, free medical camp was held on 16th November 2016 in Village Khokhriyala. 2 Lady doctors and one dispenser was there as a part of the medical team. The free medical camp benefitted 600 men and women all together out of them 400 were women and 200 was women. These patients were provided free check-up and medicines worth 150,000 free of cost.

The lesson that the forum took from this is that if advocacy is done for a common plan with the backing of the community it goes a long way. The forum is in process of making action plans for advocacy for making a proper medical facility in area.



Providing service delivery of safe clean water for the marginalized through effective advocacy

Sungi has been extensively and constantly working since the past three decades towards service delivery to the people in need and who are unheard of. This area was in need of water for their basic use, such as drinking, cleaning and other household purposes. A joint fund was released by the District and Tehsil members of the respective UC resulting into provision of a need based facility to the community. Water being at the top priority, action plans were formed and 9 working hand pumps were installed in 9 different villages, to meet the basic need of the community.




In UC Pind Kamal Khan, the basic facilities of clean water for drinking and everyday use was not available which was resulting in very poor living conditions amongst the community and would have led to increase in deceases. The community needed hand pumps to meet at least the basic water requirements.

Sungi development foundation has been constantly working hard towards service delivery to those in need of it and are unheard of. Hence, Sungi formed a union action plan and a village action plan which included priority based problems that required immediate action to be take.

Sungi Development Foundation developed linkages with the local body to incorporate the hand pump schemes in nine different villages. These hand pumps had to be multipurpose. Community should be able to use the water for drinking, cleaning and fulfil other house hold needs. A joint fund was released by the District and Tehsil members of the respective UC resulting into provision of a need based facility to the community. 9 working hand pumps for Union Council Pind Kamal Khan were allotted to meet their daily requirement of useable water.

The lesson that the forum took from this is that if advocacy is done for a common plan with the backing of the community it goes a long way. The forum is in process of making action plans for advocacy for making a proper clean water facility in other areas too.





Countering domestic violence and abuse by spreading legal awareness in the community regarding women rights, and domestic abuse



Fari Bibi, 35 years old got married 5 years ago to her family relative who were living in village Geya UC Bagnoter. She had two children, Asad who was 3 years old and Fatima was 6 months old. Her mother in law and husband had beaten her badly on several occasions, so much that she left and lived and went to her brother's house. Her mother in law came and beat her up there as well as she took the children with her.

Fari bibi shared her story in Aagahi Centre made by Sungi Development Foundation. Efforts were made for reconciliation with her in laws and she urged them to give her, her children back but they remained stubborn.

After getting proper counselling from Aaghahi Centre, Fari bibi wanted to claim custody of her children through the court. Bushra Bibi referred the case to Idrees Awan Advocate (ADF Member) and when her in-laws heard about her action, they came and apologized for their attitude and took her back to her husband's house.

When Fari Bibi discussed her issue in the women Aagahi Centre, the counsellor conducted awareness sessions in this matter. They tried to contact the in laws for a peaceful reconciliation.

When the women saw that their pleas were falling on deaf ears. The counsellor made Fari Bibi aware of the prevailing law in the state, how she can take this matter to court.

They made her aware that she is protected by the state in her rights. According to the law, forceful separation of mother and child without any reason is a punishable offense and so is domestic violence. Her in laws heard about her intentions to take the matter to court, they came and apologized to her and took her back with them. Now she lives with her in laws as an empowered woman. They are aware that they cannot pressurize her in any way, as she is aware of her rights according to the law of the state.

Way forward is to continue the process of sensitization in the community regarding domestic violence. A lot of times people don't want to involve law enforcement in this situation, for such times the forum is trustworthy and capable enough to solve these issues and women trust these forums to bring their domestic violence issues in the forum. In this particular case, making women aware of the laws protecting their rights and spreading more awareness regarding women rights is the way forward of the forum and to maintain the boundary of trust and respect given by the society to the forum members.



Sensitizing the community regarding domestic violence and working towards female empowerment



A piece of land which was a property of brothers and sisters was illegally taken by the brothers, leaving their sisters financially vulnerable. Sungi intervened on behalf of the women involved and reached a conclusion which was acceptable by both parties. As communities are showing their increased interest similarly Sungi's Union Forum is vigilantly taking issues and preaching to solve them through non-violent ways. This positive omen is an outcome of the UF efforts and team work for the maintenance of peace and harmony in the society.

The issue was of inheritance. Brothers took the land that their sisters were a shareholder in. They verbally said that they will give the land for being converted into a graveyard without their sister's consent. The sisters were in great need of financial assistance that can be provided by their share of land. However due to their brothers claiming the land as their own, they were void of any financial assistance that could have come their way from that shared piece of land.

Sungi Development Foundation has made Masalihati Committee Bherkund as an active and committed forum of the U/C, many cases that were dropped out from the courts were settled in this committee with mutual consent of the parties, just to keep harmony and maintain peace in real. Sungi's main focus is upon violence free settlement of the conflicts. Because violence is an outcome of many conflicts in our society.

In the case of giving right to inheritance often unwanted and unpleasant outcome appears that is why these cases are tackled with proper ground work and consent of the parties as well. In the monthly meeting of the UF Bherkund this issue was presented to Amman Committee for intervention and ensuring women's financial rights. President UF Chan Zada Muhammad Arif assigned this case to 'Amman committee' for probing into the matter respectfully and meeting with relevant persons. Committee arranged a meeting with all stake holders and reached over an agreement that was admissible for all the parties, particularly for those women who were suffering from this issue. The committee convinced the brothers of Saeeda Bibi and Noreen Bibi that the due share of land will be given to the sisters. This was decided that that piece of land will be used for commercial purpose and benefits will be divided among all the shareholders on equal basis. Noreen and Saeeda showed their consent upon this decision. As communities are showing their increased interest similarly Sungi field team is vigilantly taking issues and preaching to solve them through non-violent ways. This positive result is an outcome of the Forum efforts and team work for the maintenance of peace and harmony in the society.

The forum realized the importance of conflict pre-emption. They train their members in conflict pre-emption as they believe it's important to settle disputes at the societal level before they turn into conflicts of large scale. Sungi realizes the slow judiciary system will only escalate the matter hence it is in process of making an action plan and the forum members are mapping their areas to see where conflict pre-emption is needed.

Promoting religious tolerance and harmony by giving minorities their rights



In town Faqeerabad, the number of households is 1270 and total population is 8960. The Christian community shares the population with 50 Households in the town. The Christian community brought forward the issues of lack of boundary wall of the graveyard and community hall to perform their religious activities. Due to the unavailability of the boundary wall, the Christian community graveyard was totally open and vulnerable; rains and cattle's damaged their graves badly. Sungi Development Foundation initiated the intervention which resulted in local body to set aside a separate budget to address these problems and in long run contributed to the peace and religious harmony in the area.

The Christian community brought forward the issues of lack of boundary wall of graveyard and community hall to perform their religious activities. Due to the unavailability of boundary wall, the Christian community graveyard was totally open and vulnerable; rains and cattle's affected their graves badly.

This issue was prioritized during the village development plan and union council development plan in village and union council forum meetings. For this purpose alone, The Union Forum delegations met with the federal minister of parliamentary affairs Mr. Sheikh Aftab Ahmad and also raised the issue in Khulli Kachehri.

This issue also published in the newspaper and by the public service announcement on FM by the efforts of UF President Mr. Muneer Ahmad, Finance Secretary Mr. Nasir Mehmood and General Secretary Ms. Kaneez Fatima. When the issue was highlighted on so many mediums, this attracted attention and that's why local body made a separate budget for it and addressed the issue.

After long tedious process of constant follow-ups federal minister of parliamentary affairs Mr. Sheikh Aftab Ahmad approved the resolutions presented by the community and notified the relevant department for budgeting estimation during reporting quarter. This development initiative to address both the issues put a great impact on the relationship of Muslim and Christian community of the town. Christian community was happy and appreciated the efforts made by Muslim members of the forum for an issue that entirely belongs to Christian community betterment; this effected the overall environment of peace and harmony in the area in very positive manner. Before this intervention Christian community had no proper platform to raise their voices for their rights; now Christian community of the town has representation in village forum and union council forum.

This was a positive step towards peace and religious harmony.

Advocacy regarding social and religious peace can have a great impact, after this intervention, the forum decided to make an action plan to further do the mapping of other areas where such issues persist. Then the peace makers can go and do conflict pre-emption there also.

Building a bridge for facilitating girls education through advocacy and community efforts



There is a remote village by the name of Single kot in District Mansehra which needs special attention regarding education and women health issues. Single kot is situated on the bank of a river that often floods during rainy season. This affects the education of hundreds of girls who cannot cross the river to access their schools.

After Sungi's systematic and organized efforts a budget for the bridge was approved to make education more accessible. Due to flooding of the river daily life in the areas was affected and most importantly girl's school was on the other side of the river, and they were unable to go to school. Hence, a bridge was needed for them to access education without any problem.

Miss Abeera, president AVF Single kot, demanded the construction of a bridge over that river to make the education for girls smooth and uninterrupted. AVF put this issue in VDP and made an action plan over it. A committee was nominated that decided that Four members will take up this issue to concerned forums and will pave the way for construction of bridge over the river in Single kot. A delegate was nominated to meet MPA Wajeeh uz Zaman' khan over this critical issue. Committee at first stage made an effort to keep wooden planks over the river for student's to be able to cross. But this was no permanent solution as planks cannot withstand floods. This committee made many efforts to have linkages with concerned institutions for the said task and finally got an opportunity to have detailed meeting with MPA and C&W department.

Forum met with concerned MPA and chairman D-DAC at lunch which was served in the honor of elected guests. Member District forum Syed Sadiq Shirazi presented the issue to MPA for immediate action. The focus was on girls' education that was being disturbed badly due to this situation. MPA not only approved the scheme but also granted the amount 3 million for the construction of the bridge. The issue which was highlighted by AVF president Miss Abeera, with the help and cordial efforts of male members, finally got its way out and got approval from concerned department. This news made hundreds students smiled and numerous took sigh of respite on the wake of commencing construction of the bridge. The news of the construction of the bridge not only lifted the spirits of hundreds of young girls who were eager for education, but was also a manifestation of the believe that community lead initiative can pay off in long run and are beneficial for the overall community.

The lesson that was taken from the forum is that if advocacy is done for a common plan with the backing of the community, it goes a long way. Further on, the forum is in process of making action plans for advocacy for creating such projects which could facilitate young girls towards gaining education and better health facilities and be beneficial to the community as a whole.

Say NO to ghost schools – through community lead initiatives a ghost school was converted into fully functioning girls school



Village Sangar is situated 5 KM away from Balakot city of district Mansehra. It is very hard area and there is a tough terrain to approach this village. About 5000 population suffers in many respects due to issues of Health and Education. In 'Pattian' hamlet of village Sangar U/C Ghanool government had established a school for girls with a cost of PKR 3.6 million 12 years ago. That building was closed due to non-availability of staff. Community's efforts went into waste due to non-availability of funds throughout this time, actually this issue had been turned into a political issue.

Sungi conducted appropriate interventions and contacted the right influential people free it from political ties, and to allocate funds towards this school so that the staff is hired and the school is up in running. Due to this issue many girls were compelled to go out of the village for education. Some stayed back at home because their parents were skeptical about letting their girls go out of the village. School building, built 12 years ago was closed due to no staff for the girl's school and due to political interference. VF took this issue with serious concern and put it in VDP and formed action plan. VF's active members were assigned this task to bring it in the notice of concerned authorities and make contact with elected members to put pressure for allocation of funds to hire staff to effectively run the school.

Member VF and councilor tehsil forum Muhammad Ishfaq khan assured his full support to make this abandoned building a running girl's school. Action plan was developed and responsible persons notified for taking up this issue. VF president called a meeting and G.S Muhammad Farooq presented this resolution to activate the building as soon as possible. A committee was formed in which Ali Asghar Muhammad Ishfaq and Farooq khan shouldered this responsibility to meet with MPA Mian Zia ur Rehman. Matter was brought into the notice of the concerned individuals and with the help of influential people it was made possible to apportion Rs. 364,000 for staff and a Guard for the said School.

After 12 years of persistent efforts finally when matter came onto the agenda of VF after VDP's finalization this school was back to running like a proper girl's school. To hire staff for the school Rs. 364,000 were allocated so that the school for girl's education can start running and the purpose for which the building was constructed in first place is fulfilled. It is evident from this fact that until and unless community owns the development and take responsibility of its look after no Development plan can be materialized. This building was vacant since 12 years and when matter was taken up by Sungi's Forum and community shouldered the responsibility proper measures were taken and after that concerned focal persons felt it necessary to allocate the budget and clear the development plan free from political influence.

After Sungi's Forum and community members' active participation to advocate the issue to higher authorities, the message that was taken from this is that if advocacy is done for a common plan such as making a school work properly with the backing of the community, it goes way ahead. Further on, the forum is making action plans for advocacy for proper maintenance of schools in the whole district.

Solving family disputes through conflict pre-emptive measures



Tying a wedding knot with someone means that both are taking hold of a lifelong responsibility and that they will stick by each other through thick and thin and take care of the needs collectively. About 6 months ago a dispute was observed at UC Pind Kamal Khan of District Haripur. The root cause of that issue was the negligence of a husband by the name of Muhammad Ismail towards his house and not fulfilling the expenses of household upon which his wife name Mrs. Saima Bibi used to quarrel with him because her expenses were not being taken care of. Muhammad Ismail when could not think of a way out started beating his wife up and tortured her to the extent that he chucked his wife and children out of the house and it led to the stage of divorce. This issue was then taken up by Saima Bibi as she reported this to the Aagahi Centre. After counselling of the husband and wife by the peace committee members he promised to pay her 3000 rupees per month as for household expenses and Saima Bibi and her children were taken back to their houses after proper documentation and a follow up plan was provided.

A dispute between a husband and wife was encountered in District Haripur, the cause of the issue being the negligent behavior of M. Ismail towards his house and not fulfilling the expenses upon which his wife Mrs. Saima Bibi used to quarrel with him. When M. Ismail could not think of a way out, he started beating his wife and tortured her to the extent that he chucked his wife and children out of the house and it led to the stage of divorce.

Ms. Saima reported this issue to the Aagahi Centre and the resource person contacted the Peace committee members of the area, Village Nazim and President Sungi's Union Forum. A number of sittings were taken with the husband and wife and they were told that by beating the wife, leaving the wife and children alone or having a quarrel with the husband will not solve any problem and even thinking about divorce is not a way out as it will affect straight away on the kids. The peace committee members gave them problem counselling.

After 6 sittings with the husband and wife individually they came to the decision that the Mr. Ismail will pay her monthly stipend of 3000 rupees and the committee has brought her back to her husband's house after proper documentation and follow-up plans.

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Wide scale campaigns for enrolling maximum children in school



Unfortunately, Pakistan is home to one of the largest out-of-school children populations and District Swabi has a literacy rate which is above the overall national and provincial literacy rates recorded. After seeing the facts and figures in the Human Development Index, they wanted to see the remaining 33% children in schools as well. Thus they carried out an enrolment campaign to see every child in school in which Sungi's Union Forum had a major part to play.

District Swabi has a literacy rate of 67%, which is above the national and provincial averages of 57% and 54%, respectively. The enrolment rate for primary school age girls is 64%, while for boys it is 69%. This issue was further identified after the presentation of Human Development Index in Swabi.

Sungi's Union Council members aimed to run an enrolment campaign program to mobilize parents to enroll their children in schools. Awareness campaign and mobilization meeting were conducted with parents and teachers and others members of the society to enroll all the out of school children into schools. Enrolment walks and rallies were also carried out on the streets and near open markets along with schools students, teachers and other civil society members.

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- Parents and the general community members were mobilized to enrolled and retain out of school children in schools.
- The parents who had their children already enrolled into schools, went into the neighborhood to aware other society members as to how important this can be in the future.
- 350 students including both girls and boys who were out of school were directly enrolled in schools.
- A commitment was created among the entire community to see 'Every Child in School'.

Education is the key areas of work for Sungi Development Foundation. To decrease the number of out of school children, a very thorough action plan will be made, area mapping of all Sungi working areas will be done, to get the exact number of out of school children. Furthermore, periodic awareness sessions with parents will be conducted and financial support will be provided for children who go to school.

Promoting social harmony and peace through conflict resolution committee and conflict pre-emptive techniques



Tehsil Topi is one of 4 tehsils of district Swabi comparatively better economically and socially, than other 3 tehsils, Tehsil Topi is comprised upon 17 union councils. Unlike other tehsils of the district Topi has mixed demographic figures. Different races, casts, and religions live there. That is why conflict ratio in Topi is greater than other areas of the district. Every day new crimes are surfaced. So Sungi development foundation formed a Conflict Resolution Committee at Tehsil level was the first step towards resolving conflicts by community itself, at grass root level. This effort was much appreciated by the community and its departments.

Since the area was rich in its diverse population a lot of issues like domestic violence, discrimination etc. keep surfacing every now and then.

Establishment of PEACE is one of the prime focuses of Sungi's program. Establishing Conflict Resolution Committee at Tehsil level was the first step towards resolving conflicts by community itself, at grass root level. Since such a thing was not done before, no one was sure if it will yield results or not but efforts of community proved to be fruitful and this committee became a part of a higher level forum at tehsil level. With the establishment of DRC at tehsil level under the supervision of DSP (Topi circle) it is expected that these conflicts among different segments of the society will diminish to reasonable ratio in the result of this administrative effort.

Sungi's forum, when it was called upon by DSP to nominate 3 out of 11 members to form tehsil level forum for peaceful conflict resolution, felt honored and acknowledged of their efforts by management for the establishment of peace promoting in the society.

- Syed Arif Shah (President AUF Topi) was nominated by UF for DRC
- Safia Naz Advocate (member ADF Amman committee) became legal advisor to DRC
- Saleem Alezai (member ATF Topi) became information secretary of DRC

This is an achievement of these Forum made by Sungi to have representation in tehsil level ADR mechanism. This is good that forums are being reckoned with while taking steps towards peace and tranquility.

After a high success rate of this committee. Such committees will be formed in all Sungi working areas, this involvement of the community leads to a better community and more so it leads to conflicts being solved before they turn into an issue which is harder to solve.

Solving cases of domestic violence through sensitization and conflict pre-emption



In 2012, Sungi initiated its work in District Abbottabad. There are two Tehsils and 53 Union councils. Sungi's program initiated work in 10 identified villages. In UC Bagnoter many issues of Domestic violence were identified which are pre-empted by peace connectors.

One of the cases were of mother in law harassing and abusing her daughter in law and finally after she gave birth to her child, the mother in law took the child away from her and accused her of being mentally ill. Then the women and her mother attended awareness sessions in the union forum and they discussed their case with the representatives and peace connector.

With their successful interventions on the behalf of that women Sungi's peace connectors were able to solve this issue, they go the women her child back and gave her protection. Furthermore, they sensitized her in laws regarding the rights of a woman. Issues of domestic violence are far too many in these area. Another woman of 24 years of age was married and then faced domestic violence from her mother in law. Moreover, her infant baby was also taken away from her. Domestic violence issue identified by AAC resource person in a study circle, women of village Bagnoter Khas (VF) was affected by domestic violence. 24 years old woman suffered from domestic violence. She got married in 2015 and she had a baby of two months, when her mother in law asked her to go to her parents' home. After few days the mother in law came over and accused her daughter in law of being mentally ill and took her baby away from her. As she was belonged to a poor family and her parents couldn't raise their voice for justice. They also had two other children with physical disability, so they decided to be silent. She told that when she was expecting the baby her mother in law shared with someone that after her delivery she will take away the baby from her and will sent back her to her parents' home. She was invited for study circle in AAC where she got information about women rights and VAW she decided to discuss with RP for guidance. She and her mother shared the issue with RP and asked for support.

Resource Person investigated about that family they lived in UC Namlimaira and have influence in Jirga and strong relationship with other elders. RP discuss the issue to Peace Connectors. They conduct meeting with Tehsil Nazim, VC Nazim and Naib Nazim about her issue. Tehsil Nazim committed to provide personal support. After two days when her in laws heard about the involvement of Tehsil Nazim they went to her house and resolved the conflict and took her back home with them. Peace connectors asked for the protection of that woman and also sensitized the people of tehsil about her rights. Sungi representatives were appreciated on their efforts and that women's in laws properly apologized to her and took her back with open arms and clean heart.

Making an action plan for mapping areas where such issues persist. Training for peace connectors and awareness sessions will be conducted in all the working areas regarding domestic violence and harassment. Another action plan will be made for men alone, where counselling will be done to sensitize them towards women rights.

Facilitating disabled people through collective efforts



Sungi's Union Forum Golra is working for all excluded groups of the community. Sungi's Union Forum is very active since the formation and has remarkable achievements for excluded groups which including the visually impaired and the ones who have physical disability. They have contributed in making.

People who don't have any disability, in the rural areas of Pakistan, they have less access to the resources and are vulnerable to socio - economic and political threats. When these people become disabled and cannot find a way out except by putting themselves on the mercy of circumstances and become a victim to any sort of crime and cruelty.

Sungi's Union Forum Golra focused on visually impaired persons and Govt of Punjab has announced the registration for said segment of society. So it was vital to register visually impaired person with Punjab Govt, so Sungi's Union Forum Golra identified the number of visually impaired persons and also supported few of them for formation of their CNIC. After formation CNIC they registered 30 visually impaired Person with Govt of Punjab and collected the data about 15 people and soon they will be registered with Govt of Punjab.

Sungi's Union Forum has contributed a lot in the formation of the disability certificate and till today they have made about 88 disability certificates. Besides this they also made linkages with different organizations and government departments for getting wheel chairs for persons with disabilities and till today they got 36 wheel chairs of an amount worth Rs. 320000.

Talking about visually impaired persons, after registration they will be entitled for, financial support from social welfare and Bait-ul-Mal, they would get free medical treatment, as they will be registered with the government of Punjab, thus they will also be provided with government jobs. Visually impaired students will be provided with scholarships at higher levels and free education at primary and secondary levels.

Sungi is developing an elaborate action plan to be carried out in all its working districts to register the disabled individuals. So they can avail the benefits that the state provides them. Furthermore, after having an idea regarding the number of disabled people, large scale vocational trainings will be conducted for these people so they can earn their livelihoods, and be independent.

Promoting social harmony and active representation of minorities at higher levels



A member from the minority community stepped up by the support of Sungi Development Foundation and became a coordinator for human rights and minority affairs in Attock. She worked towards notable causes and instigated a debate that will have a trickle-down effect for a long time. She brought forward the concern of streamlining the minorities in Pakistan and she still works actively towards the cause.

There is lack of representation of minorities at a level where they can make a change. Secondly it is imperative that the minorities are mainstreamed and not restricted to only low paying jobs. Sanitation workers belonging to the Muslim community were not doing their job properly.

Ms. Shereen Aslam belongs to the Christian Community of District Attock. She first joined the District Forum Attock in 2013. In the second phase of District Forum election she was elected as Secretary General of district forum Attock. Christian Community in Attock have been deprived from the mainstream and majority of the community members belong to sanitary workers. Sungi organized different event like Christmas, Dewali and colloquiums for local minorities. Few seminars focused on sanitary worker were also organized in which district Management including DCO also participated. Through DF Attock, she got strong linkages with Political Parties including Sitting Minister, District Management and other NGOs. After the formation of Human Rights Commission Punjab, she was nominated as Coordinator of Human Rights and Minority Affairs in August 2015 as she became very active through DF Attock.

She is the coordinator of Human Rights and Minority Affair in Attock, she attends all human Rights and Minority affair meetings in Attock with District Management and has full authority to challenge any violation of human rights in Attock. After the nomination, she got few remarkable results, as the sanitary worker from Muslim Community used to be absent from their duty and only come for getting their salary, but after her intervention, District management forced to bound sanitary workers from the Muslim community to perform their duties and Christian community used to perform in all six tehsils. She is also playing a vital role for formation of sanitary worker association which is in its final stage.

Sungi aims to have such forum and platforms not just in Attock but in all its working districts where there is minority representation, so that minorities can be streamlined. Furthermore, when community starts owning up the minority and their rights, advocacy campaigns can be designed and carried forward to give minorities rights, and to streamline them in every walk of life, be it holding public office or any other job.

Establishment of a Skill Development Center for Disabled Women in UC Topi



Women are half of the population of our community but have no access to the resources and are vulnerable to socio - economic and political threats. When these women become disabled and cannot find a way out except by putting themselves on the mercy of circumstances and become a victim to any sort of crime, cruelty and violence. Tehsil Topi has many special women living there and in other surrounding areas. Salik Foundation came up with the initiative of establishing a skill development center in UC Topi so that disabled women can improve and learn new skills and side by side earn a living. Now the center is working very well and creating a very positive image amongst the community members.

Salik Development Foundation which is an NGO and one of its main thematic areas include women development were looking for a suitable place to establish a skill development centre. Later they came forward with making one in UC Topi. Sungji's Union Forum president wrote a letter to SDF requesting for establishing that centre in UC Topi. Salik foundation visited the place and shared the information with Sungji's Union Forum, the mechanism to collect data of special persons from tehsil Topi. Sungji's UF volunteers formed a team for this noble cause and collected the acquired information within 2 weeks and submitted to SDF for further proceedings.

- The skill development centre is going well and from 09-30 am to 03-00 pm more than 30 special women take skill development trainings in this centre.
- Sungji focuses on women empowerment as one of the highlighting sectors. Moreover, special women are the most suffered segment of the society. Sungji's Union Forum's step shows the community's interest in women empowerment. Enrolment in the skill development centre is increasing day by day.
- Other women of the town come and meet the special women and watching them work in the skill development center is a pleasure to watch. This phenomenon enhances the importance of such centers and its multi-faceted utility for the whole community.

Vocational training centers with trained master trainers in all Sungji's working districts for disabled women so they can be financially independent as that's the first step towards their empowerment. Advocacy campaigns will be designed to mainstream disabled women, and for companies to have a special quota for hiring disabled women in their work force.

Bringing religious harmony by solving sectarian differences



Village Faqeerabad is located on GT Road Peshawar. This village is thickly populated and composed of more than 14000 population. The residents of this village are divided into two schools of thoughts, Deobandi and Barelvi. About 45% population belongs to Deoband sect and rest of population is Barelvi. Both sects used to have difference of opinion about religious affairs.

On 25th October, 27 men were sitting as a routine in the house of Malik Iftekhhar in Village Faqeerabad. During formal conversation, after discussing the politics, they started discussing religious affairs. Then they started to discuss that it is a sin to say “Asalato Wa Aalam o Alaika ya Rasool Allah” before Azan and Holy Prophet (S.A.W) never used to say this zikar. On the other hand few of them said that it is a noble deed to say “Asalato Wa Aalam o Alaika ya Rasool Allah” before Azan.

Whole gathering, divided into two group and each was giving argument in favor of his individual belief. One group was led by Mr. Iftekhhar Ahmad (ex-Nazim) and others were led by Mr. Noor Muhammad (village influential and religious figure). Now this discussion turned into a heated argument as Mr. Iftekhhar belongs to Deoband school of thought while Noor Muhammad is affiliated with Brelvi School of thought and this whole big village is divided into Brelvi and Deoband school of thoughts.

As the discussion now moved on to a heated debate, Sungi’s representatives stepped in and resolved the issue. That particular representative is now highly respected and followed in the village. Religious difference between the two main school of thoughts in Sunni Sect of Islam. Mr. Muhammad Hussain Shah who is known as religious scholar in community and is highly respected as a member of village forum two other VF Members intervned in incident and called them to stop this baseless quarrel and sit down. As he is a respectable individual, all the people listened to him and sat down. He read few verses of the Holy Quran which showed the unity between all Muslim and it clearly states that Allah dislikes them who cause disputes among the Muslim. He further added that we have one Quran, one Prophet and One Allah so these issues are secondary so we should avoid these matters.

After this discussion, both groups started to cool down and finally both accept their mistake. Hence, the village forum members prevented a big dispute which had all the potential to get extremely violent. Towards the end Mr. Faqeer Baba said now onward its duty of both Mr. Iftekhhar and Noor Muhammad to settle all these sort of sectarian dispute which may cause any violent incident.

Action plans are already in making for a massive religious tolerance campaign. People need to be sensitized so they can learn to respect difference of opinion, especially in religious matters. These campaigns will then result in policy reforms, regarding strict action being taken on religious disputes or anyone demonizing the other person based on their religious views. Meeting and sessions will be held with people from all sects for spreading awareness regarding nonviolent communication.

A case of Vani in Rajan Peer pre-empted peacefully by Sungi's Union Forum Activist



In a culture where women are not allowed to exercise their basic right to choose their partner, a young girl was threatened to “Vani” by the local Jirga system in Rajan Peer. A young girl was unhappy with her engagement to a guy who himself was not interested in her. When the girl’s family broke the engagement and got her married to someone else. The Jirga system told them that their decision was wrong and there will be repercussions. Sungi’s Village Forum stepped in and helped the family of the girl to get justice and they made sure that the police perform their duty and provide protection to the family from any sort of harassment that the Jirga system would bring their way.

One of the activist in the village forums made by Sungi, learnt about Nasreen who belonged to UC Rang Pur. Nasreen was reported to be coerced into a marriage with a young man by a local feudal. After the engagement, Nasreen’s fiancé went to Saudi Arabia and was apparently unhappy with the engagement and did not keep any contact with Nasreen or her family. Meanwhile, Nasreen and her family who were disappointed by the behavior of their daughter’s fiancé received another proposal for her and accepted the proposal. When the local feudal came to know about this decision, he resorted to blackmail the family and threatened to “Wani” Nasreen (Vani is a cultural custom found in parts of Pakistan wherein young girls are forcibly married as part of punishment for a crime committed by her male relatives. Vani is a form of arranged child marriage, and the result of punishment decided by a council of tribal elders named Jirga). The local jirga termed her marriage as immoral and unethical.

The activist from the forum made by Sungi was Maqsood Mai. After she was informed about the issue, she approached both the police as well as the exploitative local feudal to resolve the issue amicably. The police were reluctant to take action, whereas the local feudal initially became angry when approached by the member of the forum. The village Forum carefully handled the situation by not letting things blow out of proportion, which yielded the desired results. The police after being repeatedly reminded by Maqsood Mai of their role to protect the victim eventually issued a warning to the local feudal and his accomplices by asking them to refrain from exploiting Nasreen and her family.

These efforts resulted in the feudal to give a formal apology to the family of the aggrieved, and promised not to harm the family or interfere in their decisions in future. Nasreen is happily married today, and lives a pleasant life with her husband thanks to Maqsood Mai’s efforts.

Advocacy campaigns will be designed for nationwide women empowerment and awareness sessions will be held in all the working districts regarding outdated inhumane customs like “Vani”. Sensitization of the masses regarding outdated traditions is necessary.

Empowering the marginalized segments by providing interest free loans to small scale farmers

In UC Pind Mehri, most of the farmers have their small scale businesses by which they cannot benefit from the crops at such a high level. Sungi's Union Forum took a stand for the small scale farmers and raised their voice in front of the agriculture department.

After constant struggle by the Union Forum Pind Mehri, the organization by the name of "Aakhuwat" was established which would not give interest free loans to small scale farmers to expand their business in which 20 are women and 40 are men farmers.

During the formation of the village action plan the farmers identified their issue and emphasized to raise their voice in front of different organizations to support them. Sungi's Union Forum raised the voice of poor farmers in front of the agriculture department and other non-profit organizations.

After the continuous struggle of Union Forum Pind Mehri the organization by the name of "Aakhuwat" accepted the resolution of Pind Mehri and provided interest free loans to small and poor 60 farmers to extend their business in which 20 are women farmers and 40 men's. Due to the provision of the interest free loan, poor farmers will be able to reduce the financial burden and production per acre will also increase. In this way, living standards for the farmers and their families will also increase.

The way forward to this project is that a detailed action plan will be made and area mapping will be done, where interest free loans will be given to the marginalized segment. After a successful implementation of this in more districts a nationwide advocacy campaign will be in place to bring about policy reforms regarding asking banks to give these loans too.



Story of Conflict Pre-emption in Village Kuthwal



Gender-based violence is one of the most significant mechanisms by which the state and societies retain power over women, their lives and choices. Therefore, any attempts to engender equal worth and opportunities for women must address the issue that shackles them most – violence against them. From gender power conflict analysis at village levels it has been found that in Sungi's working areas, violence against women based on conflicts among husband and wife are more common.

A similar situation observed in village Kuthwal during Union Forum's meeting at AAC. A conflict arose between Rubina bibi and her husband M. Saleem because of financial issues. Robina Bibi left her husband's house with her children and went to her parents' house. Main cause of the conflict was that her husband was unable to manage his family's needs as having no proper income source. Both the husband and wife did not want to hold the retaliation but their relatives were triggering the issue. Her husband was of the view that for last 15 days she left home along with children and now he would not go there to bring her back at any cost.

UF peace committee considered the issue seriously and made its efforts to pre-empt the conflict. Saleem and his wife were told about the negative impacts of what was happening to their family life and especially the children would suffer if they did not take it serious. Peace committee succeeded in its efforts Saleem went to take the family back home. Now they are living together. If this issue was not pre-empted timely, then 7 lives would have been disturbed. M. Saleem and Robina Bibi accepted that they were going to destroy their married life just because of their minor conflicts. They both committed that in future if any issue arises amongst them they would solve it in positive way.

The forum realized the importance of conflict pre-emption. They have trained their members in conflict pre-emption as they believe it's important to settle disputes at the societal level before they turn into conflicts of large scale leading to divorce or separation and destroying the family life. Sungi realizes the slow judiciary system will only escalate matters such as divorce hence it is in process of making an action plan and the forum members are mapping more areas to see where conflict pre-emption is needed.

Effective Advocacy for establishment of Mother and Child Healthcare Centre and a Dispensary in UC Pattan



Residents of UC Pattan were suffering from illnesses which were being caused by extreme weather conditions in every winter season. Moreover, maternity complications could not be treated as there was no Mother & Child Health Care Centre near the village. Resultantly people do not have choice except to hire vehicles and travel for 55 Kilometres towards Abbottabad City. SDF's Programme provided easy and safe access to service delivery with the core principle of inclusion. As a result, dispensary along with a Mother & Child Health Care Centre was established which will benefit 7 villages in which people would be able to avail the free health services.

The Programme provided safe and easy access to service delivery with the core principle of inclusion. Village Forum ensures hearing the voice of the residents and channelizing it for in time solutions to issues and problems. For this purpose, self - conduct meetings were organized and reported during the September 2014. From 12th September 2014 onwards, this committee contacted the Executive director of NHSD and held meetings and shared the maternity complications and illnesses prevailing in the village and surrounding areas at this time of the year. Concerned authorities of NHSD pledged to provide the free medical dispensary and Mother & Child Health Care Centre with the USAID and Pakistan Bait-ul-Mall's support. In this regard NHSD had negotiated with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bait-ul-Mall and continuous follow-ups were taken by AVF General Secretary during within 09 months period. During the Month of May 2015, NHSD had shared that the request for the provision of free medical dispensary along with Mother & Child Health Centre has been approved by the KPK Bait-ul-Mall and funds had been allocated for the establishment of dispensary initially for 01 year.

During the Project Launching Ceremony of "Economic Empowerment for better lives of women" held on 4th June 2015, Executive Director NHSD had announced that Project for establishment of Dispensary along with Mother & Child Health Care Centre would be cost of 6 to 10 Million PKR, in which equipment, mini Laboratory establishment, staffing and medicines cost would be covered. From the establishment of dispensary and Mother & Child Health Care Centre, 07 villages are going to be benefited in which 12000 peoples would be able to avail the free health services in which 55% would be women which could enjoy the better health facilities at their nearest. Through establishment of dispensary travelling distance of 55 kilometer from Khokhriyala to Abbottabad would be minimized which will save time, resources and life of the local people.

As a next step, Sungi's Union Forum decided to actively keep discussing and bringing up similar issues being seen in the UC. As in the Launch ceremony of Economic Empowerment for better lives of women it was announced that a Dispensary along with Mother and Child Health Care Centre would be established so in that regard it will continue to arrange donation drives and helping the people in need. This ensures the sustainability of any implemented program.



Organization of a free medical camp for better health facilities by the Union Forum Members

Union Forum ensures hearing the voice of all VFs and channelizing it for in time solutions to issues and problems. For this purpose, UF coordinator held consultation with UF members and decided to arrange a free medical camp for the UC so people could be facilitated through free medical aid as the residents had no access to medical facilities in the area. They neglected their health due to hospitals being far away and their inability to travel to far off places.

On 8th May 2015 UF had formed a committee comprised of two UF Members, Mr. Fayyaz Awan and Dr. Nadeem. The responsibility of this committee was to contact Abbottabad Medical College for holding free medical camp and getting it approved from their competent authority.

On 11th May, 2015 this committee contacted the head of Abbottabad International Medical College and shared the details of illnesses prevailing in the village and surrounding areas at this time of the year. Concerned authorities pledged to achieve the objective of the resolution and showed agreement on running the free medical camp on Sunday, 17th May, 2015. They advised the committee members to manage assembling the needy on one location till 9:00AM on the decided date where the medical team will provide the medical aid.

On 15th & 16th of May 2015 the general public was intimated of the expected activity through loud speakers in local mosques. Telephonic calls were made to ensure maximum benefit out of this activity.

On 17th May 2015 arrangements were made for the free medical camp. Once again it was announced in mosques to get medical check-ups from doctors and receive the relevant medicines for free. People poured in from neighboring villages as well. 2 female Gynaecologists, 2 male Medical Specialists, 2 Orthopedics Specialists and 2 Surgeons were present. The beneficiaries were from villages' Burj Khurd, Burj Bala, Burj Naka, Battangi, Baghati, Chari, Danna, Dheri Maira and Jandaka.

- Poorest of the poor benefitted from this camp.
- The performance of UF Chammad was highlighted for best practices.
- The confidence and trust of the people in the effective planning of the medical camp by the Union Council grew enormously.
- Major decline was observed in the incidence of illnesses.
- Frequent interaction took place between locals and concerned authorities.
- Specialists and 30 men & women medical students provided free medical service to all. Medicines were given to 100 men and 375 women patients of the concerned Union Council.

To continue the good work, Sungi's Union Forum decided to actively play a key role in making health care facilities readily available for people in the UC. As the next step, the UC Forum has decided to conduct donation drives every 3 months so that money is collected to conduct the health camps in which free medical care will be provided for the people who are the most vulnerable. Medicines will be provided for free so as professional medical advice and check-up.

A case of domestic violence pre-empted peacefully by the Union Forums and Peace Connectors



In Takiya Sheikhan, 25% cases of domestic violence were identified during conflict mapping. This domestic violence case was raised between a husband and wife due to drugs addiction. During the conflict mapping, domestic violence case of Zara who is 37 years of age and belonged to the Band Sheikhan appeared. Both their children are quite depressed from the internal environment of their home. She shared that her husband was a drug addict before marriage. She has two children of 10 and 6 years old respectively. She is a teacher in a private school and her husband was an employee in the atomic energy division. Now a days he is working on daily wage as labor. He lost his job and spent all his saving for the satisfaction of his habit. He was demanding money from his wife and as she refused, he harassed his wife. After her second child she thought of teaching again in a private school where she was doing a job before her marriage. She requested him to stop drugs addiction and he totally refused and used abusive language for her on stopping him from drug addiction. She suffered a lot, physically and mentally by his husband's attitude and violence. She visited her uncle who was admitted in the hospital. Her husband again used abusive language and criticized her family and asked her if she talks to him or his family again, he will give divorce to her. After some days he demanded money from Zara Bibi again. Due to her refusal he gave her a tough beating but Zara Bibi refused him resulting in the same behavior. Zara Bibi went to her parents' house with her children. This issue of fluctuation of attitude of his husband and demanding money is very critical. This internal situation of her house directly and indirectly affected her health and her children.

During the gender power conflict mapping, she has shared her miserable life story. She wanted do whatever her husband want to make her life happy but she couldn't find any way to make her husband convinced to stop drug addiction.

Field team talked to Sungi's Union Forum about this issue and referred her case to Advocate Saeed Awan for further consultation. She consulted the Advocate and shared all the scenario. He guided her husband about women rights in the light of Islam and what penalty for harassment and domestic violence to women at home can be. UF contacted her husband and discussed this matter and how badly it is affecting his children. After five months her husband contacted the Amman Committee. Amman committee members went there and asked that her husband is feeling embarrassment for his attitude, he requested her to bring her back at home. She refused to go back with him without proper clarification. She had certain conditions for him to not demand for money. She shared that due to limited resource she is unable to give him money and that his drug addiction is destroying the family. After long discussion, he agreed with the views of Aman committee and with her wife's consent. He agreed to strictly follow the conditions and never do these actions again. On the other hand she promised to support her husband for his treatment to get rid of his habit as soon as possible and she will also consult a doctor for this as well.

Since the committee has been trained and counselled in regards to how to deal with people who use drugs, and how to report the buying and selling of this drug. Due to the formation of Sungi's Union Forum, people now take responsibility of the things going wrong in their society and once they treat it as their own responsibility, they try to make positive efforts to solve the problem of drug use which can totally ruin a family life.



Provision of wheelchairs to Persons with disabilities (PWDs) through a collaboration with Al—Khair Foundation

The dire need of wheel chairs for PWDs was a long standing demand of the community in Swabi. The lobbying and advocacy initiatives taken by the district such as Khulli Kachehri, is now becoming the central hub of facilitation for various issues of the community.

Project team raised and lobbied this issue on so many forums. Special efforts were done for it in order to provide wheel chairs to the PWDs during celebrations of the governance week so that they have access to every place they feel like going to as every normal human being does.

This issue received special attention of the stake holders and an immediate decision was taken by the District Social Welfare Officer. He promised that this long standing issue of Wheel Chairs will be solved in 3 days. The District Welfare Officer called for a joint consultative meeting of the team and another NGO, The Al-Khair Foundation.

The Director for Al-Khair foundation told the participants of the meeting that they have arranged 100 Wheel Chairs in their ware house and would need one day for distribution. District Team then provided them with the required data of the PWDs via Social Welfare officer. On the 3rd day, 100 Wheel Chairs were provided to the most vulnerable PWDs under the active support of the district team.

To continue such a good initiative, Sungi's Union Forum decided to actively discuss issues being faced by the disabled people in Swabi. Donation drives will be organized in Swabi every 3 months with the help of Al – Khair Foundation. If any case arises which a PWD requires a Wheel Chair, the money collected in the donation drive will be utilized in the best possible manner to help the persons with disabilities.

Empowering girls through establishment of Girls Higher Secondary School through advocacy



In rural areas, girls couldn't come to Abbottabad city to continue their education and that's the reason that after primary, 90% girls leave their education due to not having schools in their respective UCs and don't have the resources to go to Abbottabad City. As a result of forum's efforts, MPA PK-46 took this issue and granted approval for the Girls higher secondary school.

UC Chammad is the largest Union Council of District Abbottabad with 45000 populations and 22000 registered voters. Girl's literacy rate of the union council is 15% while 85% girls are illiterate due to not having girls secondary and high schools. There are only 03 girl's secondary schools which were insufficient for the whole UC. Yearly, approximately 90 girls pass the examination of secondary level education and leave due to insufficient resources and not having girl's high school. The ratio after primary level is comparatively high because of not having secondary level school nearby.

In result of forum's efforts, MPA PK-46 took this issue and granted approval for the Girls higher secondary school. After approval MPA referred the case to Local government representatives for allocation of land. Meeting of the LG representatives were held in Aagahi Center Chammad in which unanimously village Mian Jalal was selected for the construction of school and resolution was passed.

In result of Sungi Union forum's efforts "Government girls high secondary school Mian Jalal" has been sanctioned with the aforementioned name in government papers. Stamp paper of allocated land have been handed over to the relevant department in Peshawar, while tender process for construction of the school is in process. This school will serve more than 500 girls of 10 major villages with coverage of 65% population.

The lesson that was taken from the forum is that if advocacy is done for a common plan with the backing of the community, it goes a long way. Further on, the forum is in process of making action plans for advocacy for creating such projects which could facilitate young girls towards gaining education and be beneficial to the community as a whole.

Cleanliness Drive in UC Chapar through proper coordination with Tehsil Municipal Authority




In UC Chapar, the residents were effected by various diseases which were being spread due to waste items not being disposed off properly and stacked on the road sides. This issue was then taken up by the Forum Chapar who then conducted a meeting with the AAC Wari and demanded proper cleaning of the streets in whole UC. The whole community's health and hygiene was being affected by this. The AAC provided them with proper assistance from the TMA, who then took responsibility and cleaned up the whole UC from the trash which was a big hazard for the whole community.

Open bags of trash and garbage was scattered on the road sides which was acting as a major health hazard for the whole UC. This increase the threat of salmonella, which causes typhoid fever, food poisoning, enteric fever, gastroenteritis, and other major illnesses. Other than flies, there are various animals that increase from the garbage inside and around the trash cans include rats and stray dogs.

The Forum Chapar then took the initiate and conducted a meeting with the AAC Wari and demanded proper cleaning of the streets in the whole UC as the community's health and hygiene were being enormously affected by it. The community members were fully encouraged to help clean their own UC to get rid major diseases which could affect them and their family members.

The AAC took immediate action and provided them with proper assistance from the Tehsil Municipal Authority, who then took responsibility and cleaned up the whole UC from the trash. Further on, the community members were given awareness sessions by Sungi Development Foundation regarding health and hygiene and how we can act in contributing positively towards the environment.

To continue with this notable determination, Sungi's Forum decided to actively conduct awareness sessions in the Forum meetings which could include the community members as well so that they can take part and get to know more about health and hygiene. Moreover, the members of the forum and community members together can have clean up exercises every two – weeks of streets in UC Chapar involving children as well to inculcate the message of hygiene and cleanliness.



Peaceful reconciliation by peace connectors after fight over dowry



In UC Chapar, there was a dispute between a wife and husband on dowry. The husband was not giving the dowry right to her wife, which is her lawful right. Tensions were raised between the couple, which ultimately and nearly led to separation between the two. Forum members of the village got involved in the matter but their struggle couldn't solve the problem. Village forum members carried this matter to the Union Council and the UC members intervened involving peace connectors and they pre-empted peacefully and settled down, taking dowry from the husband.

Dowry is a common custom which is observed in the South Asian countries especially in Pakistan. Dowry, which is one of the rights of the wife, which is hers to take in total and is lawful for her. There have been cases where this lawful right has been taken away from the wife. Such a case was reported in UC Chapar, where there was a dispute between the wife and husband on dowry. The husband was not giving her dowry right to her wife.

Initially, the Forum members of the village got involved in the matter but their attempt couldn't solve the problem. This case was highlighted in the Forum later on, and due to Sungi's community building initiatives and bringing the community together on different platforms, Village Forum members carried this matter to the UC and the UC members intervened in this matter. The husband and his family members were peacefully informed and told that by giving the bride's basic lawful right, the couple could live a very happy life ahead.

They pre-empted peacefully in the matter and settled down, taking dowry from the husband. Now the couple is living a very happy life together as this issue of dowry has been solved with the intervention at the UC level and did not lead to something as a divorce or separation. Sungi Development Foundation has solved many such issues at the ground level.

To continue doing this noteworthy effort, the forum decided to actively discuss such cases in the Forum meetings. Moreover, the members of the forum should stay vigilant and consciously aware as whenever they see any cases of people in need, they report it quickly. Even donation drives can be done for cases regarding dowry money and its payment. This will further ensure the sustainability of any implemented program.



Exposing corruption by a contractor in a gas supply project through effective establishment of Union Forums at all levels



In UC Nabi Pura of Khanewal, a decade long request of the local residents was responded to by the government, when it outsourced development of the necessary gas supply infrastructure to a contractor. The process came to a standstill sometime after it was initiated, due to corruption. Establishment of Village Forum (VF), and similar forums at the Union Council, Tehsil and District level, the locals decided to route their issue through these forums. It was an organized way of taking forward their demands, and the corruption of contractor was exposed and the work was back on track. After so much efforts the development project of gas supply was initiated and soon after due to corruption of the contractors and government people involved the project came to a halt.

After being initiated for sometime, the process of the gas supply came to a halt. The poor local people couldn't seek the department's attention despite attempting to voice their concerns on various occasions. Creation of Village Forum (VF), and similar forums at UC, Tehsil and District level, the locals decided to take forward this issue through these forums.

VF investigated the issue to identify the bottlenecks. The more it probed the issue, the more it became evident that the contractor had been misusing funds. VF made a video documentary to record the evidence of fraud, besides putting it in writing. Soon after learning about the details being prepared by the VF to highlight their wrongdoings in the media, the officials in the department and the contractor approached VF requesting it not to make anything public.

They also agreed to restart and speed up the infrastructure development work on ground. They completed the remaining work in no time, however, as part of their role as a neutral watchdog, VF didn't conceal the findings. The VF presented the findings of its enquiry report to the authorities in the department and at the provincial level.

After this experience the forum realized that their role is not only sensitizing the masses but also to be watch dogs, as it will conduct further awareness session in the masses regarding how to take responsibility and how to own their community assets. Once that feeling of ownership has established, accountability will follow. Sungi's team will be mapping out other areas for similar problems that prevail in the community and will motivate the community to take action and raise voice against injustice.

Spreading awareness regarding drug abuse and countering it through effective community lead committees and counseling sessions



Sungi's field team identified areas where a large number of population was undocumented, they did not have their CNIC, especially women. They were unaware of the importance of an identity card. Sungi Development Foundation conducted awareness sessions for sensitizing them regarding the benefits and importance of national identity card. Resulting in joint collaboration with NADRA, they registered more than 200 women for their identity card.

In union Council Bagnotar there were majority of women who did not have their CNICs or had expired CNICs, due to this reason they were facing issues regarding inheritance, marriage, and admissions in educational institutions, as they did not have any proof of citizenship.

During the forum's meetings In 10 working villages of UC Bagnotar, women forum members use to identify low CNIC pockets and demanded for CNIC formation.

Sungi's team organized sessions during forum meetings on importance of CNIC and shared the steps of CNIC formation with women forum members. These sessions' sensitized women and they brought this issue at Union Forum level for getting facilitation during their VDPs and ADPs development. Miss. Bushra Waheed who is the Union Forum's General Secretary contacted all AVFs and after consultation, estimated pockets were identified to further present before NADRA's Regional Office for raising demands for MRV, total 220 women's data was shared with NADRA CNIC registration was required for. In this connection both Aagahi Centers of UC Bagnotar facilitated the women and supported them to compile the demands and how to fill their forms.

As a result of the Union Forum's continuous follow up, NADRA's regional office scheduled MRV for 02 days. On 7th March 2016 MRV visited AAC Bagnotar Khas and facilitated 90 women in CNIC formation. While on 8th March 2016 MRV visited Village Bandit (near AAC) and facilitated 94 women and 12 men. UF members informed the community through loudspeaker and telecommunication with activists so that maximum women could be facilitated. During the CNIC formation Aagahi Centers' resource persons Miss- Iqra Tanveer and Nabila Saeed had established help desk and provided the required guidance to women. AAC resource persons also recorded the data of the people coming for CNIC registration.

It is a big achievement by Sungi Development Foundation that not only women were sensitized on the importance of the CNIC formation but also supported 184 women and 12 men (from 10 AVFs) in registration of their National identity cards at their door steps to ensure their participation in political and public places.

With such successful results, the forum decided to replicate the same model of sensitization, awareness session, and collaboration with NADRA for other areas as well. The forum will make an action plan and perform area wise mapping to see where there are still people who are not documented and are unaware of their civic rights.