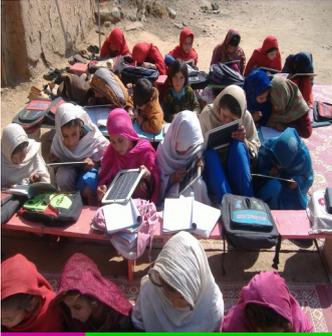


Autumn—Winter
2018-9



Contact us at: www.frok.org.uk—Reg Charity No: 1095857

FROK: UK Friends of Khwendo Kor

Now is a difficult time for all Pakistan NGOs

Now is a difficult time for all Pakistani NGOs with funds increasingly scarce and distrust sometimes apparent from all sides. Some foreign NGOs, including prestigious ones, and NGOs dependent on foreign money have found themselves excluded from working in parts or all of Pakistan. No Objection Certificates (NOCs) required for work in sensitive areas remain very difficult to obtain. The growth of bureaucratic hurdles leads to a suspicion that some of those who surmount them are better at pleasing officials than helping the poor.

For KK there is an irony that as the security situation has improved, the difficulties described above have multiplied. Their response has been, as ever, energetic. On the one hand they are

increasing their efforts to get money from businesses and philanthropists within Pakistan. On the other they are spending much more time talking to high up officers in the army and police. All this takes time but hopefully aids understanding

We are pleased to report that KK have recently received the



KK students celebrating Pakistan Independence Week

necessary general permit to apply for NOCs, they have gained an NOC for an important project they have in Dir and they are exploring the possibility of work in areas heavily controlled by the army.

'.....the difficulties facing KK are also its opportunities'

In these ways the difficulties facing KK are also its opportunities. Other good NGOs should also get the permissions

required.

That some do not makes the work of KK more needed, and perhaps more easily funded. The success of the military in FATA and the wish of the civilian government to assimilate FATA to the standards in

the rest of the KP province means that both have an interest in working with an effective NGO. The success of KK in getting at least one and possibly more long-term projects means that they have a base from which to respond to these opportunities and needs.

A heartfelt 'Thank You' to all our donors & fundraisers. Every gift, no matter how big or small is appreciated. All of it goes to KK to sustain their work. A few illustrations of the donations we receive can be found between articles in this newsletter.

Celebrating Women's Suffrage in the UK and Pakistan.....

In the year in which women here in the UK have celebrated the Centenary of our first woman getting the vote in November 1918 (albeit at first only those aged 30 and over and with property), KK launched a new initiative in Lower Dir called "Women's Participation in the Electoral Process". With the support of the United States Institution of Peace (USIP), they were working with women not previously 'allowed' to exercise their right to vote.

After 10 years of work in the area, KK has made significant contributions to raising awareness about women and human rights. Before the 2018 General Election, with the co-operation of both men and women's community groups, it organised 20 training sessions and 30 mobilisation campaigns providing information on the important role of women in the electoral process. Participants were introduced to the Election Act 2017 legislation (which called for a 10% mandatory participation of women in election processes) and there were demonstrations of the practicalities of how to vote.

As this was the first experience of voting for these women, they were excited and eager to join in.



The women voter mobilisation campaign was titled "Vote Zama Haq De", Pashto for 'Vote is my right'.



Farewell and Good Luck to Gullalai

We were very sorry to hear of the departure of Gullalai, KKs Director of Programmes, who recently left to take up a new appointment with the University of Peshawar. Their gain is our loss! We wish her well and know that she will remain a good friend to KK and FROK.

Thanks to the person who donated anonymously with the following inspiring message: 'This is a gift in honor of Charles Spencer's 80th birthday. He recently learned about Khwendo Kor, and believes in it strongly'.

KK's Education Manager, Ms. Nuzhat Amin (seated to the right of the woman standing), recently attended a Training-of-the-Trainers workshop on "Gender-Based Violence Emergency Response and Preparedness" in Bangkok. Sponsored by the International Rescue Committee, there were 24 participants from 7 countries .



Social cohesion and interfaith harmony, KK style.....

With the financial support of Norwegian Church Aid, KK has started a project entitled "**Resilient Communities for Inclusive Societies**". Its aim is to increase social cohesion within communities by facilitating increased contact between different faith and social groups, thus reducing bias, fear and misunderstanding. By building levels of trust, respect and religious tolerance, it is hoped that the risk of people being attracted to violent extremism will be reduced.

KK have set up meetings of social groups and organisations, government departments and religious leaders as a way of introducing better relations. They have also initiated a District Social Harmony Network comprising members of these groups as well as women and representatives from the media. The Network will consolidate the work of several groups and organisations, take collective steps including advocating on issues faced by non-Muslims, and develop a Charter of Demand for the current government.

There have already been shared social events (see photo) attended by representatives of the Sikh, Hindu, Christian, Bahai and Muslim Communities, with prayers from different faiths, performances by children, musical presentations and shared food. Messages of peace and social harmony were also disseminated through newspapers.

The peace and social harmony messages were also disseminated by media through newspapers.



School children helping in adult literacy

As many community members where KK is implementing its education programmes are not themselves formally educated, KK staff and teachers also try to help improve parents' basic literacy. In one area, students in Grades 4 and 5 were assigned to help teach their parents during a "Literacy Week". In Aman Abad School, the teacher reported that one student worked with her mother who was successful in learning how to write her name and the names of her children and how to dial phone numbers. In another area, students taught their mothers some basic literacy and brought their written work into school. The mothers told KK staff that they were very happy with their new skills.

Thank you to the congregation of St Columba's Church, Oxford, who recently held a retiring collection for KK.

Your continuing support boosts the morale of KK staff.

Thanks too to Jana who sent us a donation, saying: 'I hope this contribution collected together with friends at my birthday party is a good support for KK's valuable work!'



Improving the environment for all

KK's work with the Pashto community in Karachi, a highly and densely populated city, is now more than a year old. Its many environmental issues have led KK to engage communities in regular education on climate change and associated risks. In Hijrat Colony Ward 02, this led the community to prioritise the need to plant fruited and non-fruited trees. KK successfully lobbied for 350 plants in total and women and men enthusiastically participated in planting them on road sides and elsewhere.

"I discovered this association in occasion of my friend's birthday, who is so generous and kind that doesn't accept presents, but prefers to donate to the less fortunate. Thank you for being an example"

And thank YOU Leva for thinking of KK!

KK set to help local communities rebuild their lives in Khyber Agency

As a result of Maryam Bibi's meetings with Army officials, a team from KK was invited by the Commander of 27 Brigade to visit the Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency in October to see rehabilitation work undertaken by the Army and to explore how KK can contribute, especially in girl's education.

The local communities were displaced during military operations and repatriation has now started. During the visit, KK team met with the community elders and visited various facilities established by the Pakistani Army including a school, health centre and vocational centre. The Army is requesting KK to help in providing school teachers, health services staff and vocational teachers.



Pakistani Army presenting their monogram in honour of Maryam Bibi during the visit

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) 2018

We are sending you this Newsletter because you have previously consented to receive it. If you no longer wish to receive it, please let us know. For our full Privacy Notice, please see our website -www.frok.org.uk - or ask us for a printed copy.

Helping women live with dignity and self reliance in northwest Pakistan

www.frok.org.uk



KK staff are shown a school in Khyber Agency constructed by the Pakistani Army and in need of teachers

Want to Donate to FROK or get a friend to join and not sure how?

Advice from our Treasurer

Through our website (www.frok.org.uk) or by writing to us you can access a form to set up a membership, standing order, or make a donation. You can do so by cheque or bank to bank transfer. You can also send a cheque (made payable to FROK please) direct to me (details below). For online banking transfers, use the bank account details on the website and let me know you're doing this by putting your surname in 'payee reference' or emailing me on the first occasion you go down this route so I can confirm receipt.

Remember to fill in a gift aid form if you're a UK tax payer (If you have already completed one for us in the past, you don't need to do one on every occasion. I'll come back to you if there's a problem).

For those with Charity Aid Foundation (CAF) accounts you can send me a voucher or set up regular payments.

You can also donate up to £10 by sending a text to 70070 with the following message:

FROK10 £[put here the number of pounds you want to donate - choose from 1,2,3,4,5 or 10].

Another online donation route is through www.justgiving.com/frok/Donate—either a one-off or regular amount. If you declare you're a UK tax payer, Justgiving will add gift aid to any donation.

Finally, you can also support FROK when you make on-line purchases by using the THEGIVINGMACHINE.

CONTACT US AT:

Chair: Marilyn Crawshaw
50 Middlethorpe Grove
York YO24 1LD
marilyn.crawshaw@york.ac.uk

Treasurer:
Jonathan French
85 East Parade,
York YO31 7YD
jonathanfrench97@gmail.com

Membership:
Penny Bartlett
76 Scarcroft Rd
York YO24 1DD
pennybartlett@hotmail.co.uk