

## CEO meets team Pakistan

Othman Moqbel, CEO Human Appeal, was in town and held detailed discussions with team Pakistan. He was given a comprehensive briefing about various ongoing and planned projects in Pakistan. He reiterated that Human Appeal gave Pakistan utmost importance and was committed to expand its scope of activities here in the days ahead.

He also held a meeting with the top brass of a Lahore based organization LEAN in which the two sides agreed to join hands for the promotion of education in Pakistan. In another meeting, the top management of Sufi Group of Industries expressed a strong desire to

work with Human Appeal to provide safe drinking water to deserving communities in different parts of the country, especially Tharparkar and Faisalabad.

Mr. Moqbel is planned to conduct a two days training workshop for the top leadership of a select group of development sector organizations in Pakistan in February 2017. He is a certified trainer from John Adair Leadership Instituted with your comments and feedback to improve the newsletter further.



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# Newsletter

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## Editorial

Welcome to the latest edition of the quarterly newsletter of Human Appeal. It brings to you an update on the projects and activities, which have impacted the lives of targeted communities, tremendously. A staunch believer in agriculture, Human Appeal each year organizes a Kisan Maila at Bagh, Azad Kashmir, to provide a platform to the farmers to showcase their near-organic products. The event this time around also went highly successful, sending across a powerful intended message that agriculture held the key to address the issue of poverty and deprivation at grassroots level in the area.

Scintillating performance of the students of public sector schools in the grand finale of EHSAS Quality Education Project at Muzaffarabad is also given due coverage. The project went a long way in personality development and character building of students, through the revival of co-curricular activities at public sector schools. It was a stark reminder to the concerned circles to pay due attention to the public sector schools to bring them at par with the private sector to bridge the yawning gap between haves and have-nots in the society.

Extension of Food Security Project at Tharparkar was also a highlight of the quarter. Building on the achievements of the first phase, the project is aimed at helping over 200 families attain food security, through the promotion of kitchen gardening. Using the water made available to them through the installation of solar-powered water pumps, the project has helped significantly the targeted population to make a transition from living on charity to self-reliance.

We also wish you a happy new year, while requesting you to keep us posted with your comments and feedback to improve the newsletter further.



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## Grand finale of EHSAS competitions: winners rewarded heftily

### Public sector schools reminded of challenges ahead

Sohaib Rumi and Isma Tahib clinched top positions in two main categories of All Kashmir Co-curricular Competitions, held under the auspices of EHSAS Quality Education Project of Human Appeal at Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir.

The event witnessed students of different public sector high and higher secondary schools competing with each other in the realms of public speaking and creative writing. The participants had made their ways to the competition by clearing the first two milestones: cluster and regional level competitions.

Sohaib earned first position in public speaking, leaving behind an indelible impact of his extraordinary oratory skills. A student of Government Boys High School Hari Ghel, he received standing ovation from the audience for his scintillating performance.

Isma Tahir, on the other hand, was unanimously declared as the best writer, prompting the judges to declare her the find of the competition. She belonged to Gurah Kanjal, Mirpur, and demonstrated amazing skills in story writing, fiction and calligraphy.

Top three position holders in the categories of speaking and writing were awarded with special certificates, shields and cash prizes, respectively.

The event also marked the formal closure of EHSAS



Quality Education Project. Launched in collaboration with the government of Azad Kashmir, the project aimed at personal and professional development of students and teachers alike to bring public sector schools in Kashmir at par with their counterparts. It benefitted over 100,000 students and 12,000 teachers, apart from raising a whole lot of 2,300 education trainers in Azad Kashmir.

The project set off a new culture of learning at public sector schools and was thoroughly appreciated by concerned circles, including print and electronic media.



#### Public Speaking: list of winners

| Sr/No | Position | School Name      | Cluster     | Region | Student Name  |    |
|-------|----------|------------------|-------------|--------|---------------|----|
| 1     | 1st      | GBHS HARI GHEL   | Bangoin     | Poonch | Sohaib Roomi  | NA |
| 2     | 2nd      | GBHS Barali      | Dhanwan Goi | Mirpur | Waheed Saleem | NA |
| 3     | 3rd      | GGHS Gujar Bandi | Hattian     |        | Ariba Kazmi   | NA |

#### Writers Competitions: list of winners

|   |     |                    |              |        |                   |                |
|---|-----|--------------------|--------------|--------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 1st | GGHS Gurah Kanjal  | Bhimber      | Mirpur | Isma Talib        | Sawera Afzal   |
| 2 | 2nd | GGHS Mohra Kaniyal | Check Sawari | Mirpur | Muqodus Kosur     | Kanwal Rani    |
| 3 | 3rd | GGHS Khunder       | Nikyalyal    | Mirpur | Zerafshan Murtaza | Rimsha Pervaiz |

## Kisan Maila: Farmers display their near-organic products

### Honeybee stalls attract special attention

Human Appeal believes that agriculture holds the key to uplift the economic status of marginalized people in different parts of Pakistan. To create awareness on the real potential of agriculture and encourage farmers to explore unorthodox options, it regularly organizes different activities, which are participated by people coming from different walks of life, including government departments.

During the quarter under review, Human Appeal organized a Kisan Maila at Dhirkot, Azad Kashmir, to provide an opportunity to the farmers to showcase their near-organic products at a bigger scale. As many as 40 farmers, including women, participated in the event and displayed their products, including but not limited to, honeybee, maize, wheat, carrot, radish, garlic, spinach and cabbage.

Trained and supported by Human Appeal, the farmers through their products sent across a powerful message that the area had a huge agriculture potential and, by turning to it, the local people could enhance their income, significantly.

It was noted that the quality and size of the products displayed were far better than the ones available in the market. The farmers revealed that use of organic material, such as manure, kitchen waste and ash, helped them tremendously to enhance the quantity of their crops.

Honeybee stalls attracted special attention on the occasion. Visitors thronged them and largely appreciated the quality and aroma of the products.

1 The farmers disclosed that, besides meeting local demands, some of them had already started exporting the product to the Middle Eastern countries in particular at against hefty returns.

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Human Appeal is currently running several kitchen gardening, honeybee and tunnel farming projects at Dhirkot, helping a large number of people to enhance their income, significantly. Apart from training and guidance, they were provided with seeds, tools and special kits to try their luck in the new-found field.

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## Famous anchorperson Iqrarul Hassan visits the event

Famous anchorperson and brand ambassador of Human Appeal, Iqrarul Hassan also visited the event and showed keen interest in various products. He visited each and every stall and exchanged views with the farmers and hugely appreciated their efforts.



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### Clean drinking water: 3,000 more people reached with the facility

Lack of access to clean drinking water is among the most common issues people are confronted with in Pakistan at the moment. Worse, where available, it is most often than not contaminated, playing havoc with the health of its users.

Cognizant of the situation, Human Appeal during the quarter under review ensured access of over 3,000 people to clean drinking water at Thatta (Sind), Rahim Yar Khan (Sind) and Bhimber (Azad Kashmir), through the installation of hands pumps and construction of water wells.

In light of different feasibility studies, the facilities were installed at central places to ensure that maximum number of people benefited from them round the clock. To facilitate the people engaged in kitchen gardening, it was ensured that the water facilities are installed nearest to their houses and huts.

"Several people in my community at Tharparkar are running kitchen gardening projects by using the water made able to them by Human Appeal. I also desperately wanted to do the same but availability of water was a great issue, which is now duly addressed. I look forward to growing vegetables in the backyard of my house", said Fatima bibi, while disclosing his future plans.

Human Appeal gives utmost importance to the provision of clean water to deserving people and believes that the issue needs to be taken up on war-footing. Limited, or for that matter, no access, forces people to live on contaminated water, which is causing numerous health issues, especially in the industrialized and coastal areas of Pakistan.

### 2nd phase of Food Security Project gets under way at Tharparkar

To promote agriculture and help drought-ravaged people meet their immediate food requirements, Human Appeal launched the second phase of Food Security Project at Tharparkar. The project aimed at building on the highly encouraging results, achieved in the wake of the first leg of the venture completed only recently.

As many as 200 farmers were extended with technical and in-kind support to develop their pieces of land for kitchen gardening, respectively. Furthermore, 25 master trainers remained at their disposal to train and guide them to grow vegetables in winter season.

The farmers were also provided with agriculture tools and seeds of different vegetables, such as carrot, radish, spinach and cilantro. In view of their nutritious value, they were also encouraged to grow eggplant, peas and zucchini.

"I am among those few people who adopted kitchen gardening almost a year ago and successfully grew many vegetables in the summer season. Human Appeal of course was the driving force behind this all. I believe after the completion of this phase, I would be duly equipped with the basic skills and knowledge to grow vegetables round the year", said Nazir Ahmed.

Almost one year back, Human Appeal started kitchen gardening project at Tharparkar to help local people meet their immediate food requirements. Besides technical and financial support, they were also trained in efficient use of water, made available to them through solar-powered water pumping system. The success of the project sent across a powerful intended message that agriculture had a strong potential at Tharparkar and that could go a long way in helping people make a transition to self-reliance. he industrialized and coastal areas of Pakistan.



## Developing bridges, creating networks

Human Appeal during the quarter under review was also instrumental in creating a Coordination Committee of different organizations, engaged in numerous humanitarian and development activities at Tharparkar.

In the maiden meeting, representatives of five organizations i.e., UN-WFP, SIF, PVDP, TRDP and Human Appeal shared details of their work at Tharparkar and future plans to build on that, respectively.

The committee decided to converge at least once in a month for exchange of ideas and information. It also entrusted Amir Zaib of Human Appeal to perform as its convener and find out ways and means to make it more effective and target oriented, while bringing different actors on its platform for the common good of local people.



## health screening of orphans: a new mile stone achieved

Running a comprehensive program for the welfare and development of orphans, Human Appeal completed the health screening process of over one thousand orphans in different parts of the country, besides meeting their health, education and family expenses, considerably.

As many as 1,423 orphans benefited from this facility at designated places at Faisalabad, Mansehra and Kashmir. Conducted under the supervision and guidance of highly qualified professionals, the exercise enabled Human Appeal to screen out the children who needed medical treatment for one reason or the other. A step further, the facility was extended to the mothers of all screened orphans as well which revealed that many of them were faced with acute health challenges.

## Bringing smile back on the face of an orphaned family

And the award goes to no one else but Laiba Akram. Her sheer brilliance and enthusiasm beat all others this year again, and in her we see someone who is destined to rule the roots in the days ahead.

For a while, Laiba struggles to find her feet, before walking to the podium elegantly. This is for the fourth consecutive time that she stands first in the annual exams and declamations, giving an unequivocal hint of her talent and the abiding spirit to excel.

Laiba, 9, was orphaned when she was just five months old. A carpenter by profession, her father was though hardly hard pressed; he had set lofty goals for her dolly, even before she was born. The things, however, took a nasty turn after his death and the whole family was thrown in a lurch, with no guaranteed support from any side.

They say time flies, but for Laiba and her family things had come to halt. Her mother struggled to earn a livelihood by doing sundry jobs. In her mid 30s, she kept herself engaged from dawn to dusk to meet the educational expenses of her three other children - two daughters and one son - and deep down her heart she believed that enrolling Laiba to a school was simply beyond her means.

Her mind was seized with worries and tension, though no ray of hope available to her under prevailing circumstances. Her hopes started fading, so the excitement on the face of Laiba to start going to the nearby school.

In these dark and gloomy times, Human Appeal got a scent of the situation and decided to approach Laiba's mother, directly. After due diligence, it decided to sponsor Laiba under its Orphans Support Program and enrolled her at a local school at Dhirkot, Azad Kashmir (AJ&K). A new chapter was opened in her life.

Under the program, Human Appeal meets health and educational expenses of Laiba. On regular basis, she is provided with school uniform, bag and books, in addition to special gifts on auspicious occasions, such as Ramadan and Eid.

Human Appeal also provides a stipend to her family on regular basis to help it raise her in a stress-free and conducive environment.

Though just 9, Laiba is pretty clear about her future plans, as she intends to be a doctor to serve people in distress. She also believes that with the continued support of Human Appeal, she can do wonders not only in the field of education, but other sectors, also.

