



Ali Hasan Mangi

Memorial Trust

Changing Lives. One Village at a Time

Newsletter
Summer 2018

Dear donors, supporters and friends,

Welcome to your first newsletter of 2018. As you may have noticed, we have switched from a quarterly to a half-yearly newsletter to provide you with a more comprehensive update of what we have accomplished.

We have had our best and busiest six months yet. The biggest news we're eager to share with you is that 10 years ago we started in one village, Khairo Dero, aiming to create a model of rural development. Having facilitated hundreds of families there, we moved onto surrounding communities. Today we are thrilled to report we are working in 27 different villages in the area in some capacity or another. Our team members have been out in the field conducting population surveys, assessing needs and explaining to communities our principle of participation and our work method. Since we moved on from Khairo Dero, our Community Center has been inundated with requests from women in various villages who need hand-pumps, toilets, kitchens, shelter or solar electricity. We invited all these women to join us on International Women's Day in March to share their thoughts on the issues they face and what solutions they see.



Our second big news of the year is the internal improvements we have made; we launched a brand new website which we feel reflects our work so much better. All credit goes to Avaib; the fabulous company who so very kindly designed this beautiful site on a completely pro-bono basis. Please do take a look at www.alihasanmangitrust.org and share your feedback with us. The other improvement we made was at our Community Center premises in Khairo Dero; we have been trying to beautify our public park by installing a water fountain, model birds and animals, and a giant trampoline for children. This is the only public facility of its kind for miles and miles around in that area and children and the elderly alike love to come and spend time there.



Now, onto the projects we've been working on since January. Two communities in Chahwan Village and Sohb Ji Waandh Village approached us requesting help to build bridges. These people had been building makeshift bridges to cross over water courses to get out of and into their villages. They had repeatedly approached local leaders and politicians requesting government help to build these bridges but no help was forthcoming for the last several years. We worked with these communities so that they raised funds among themselves to pay for the labour costs and technician's fees and we provided the building materials. This way, within a few short weeks, we were able to help build two more bridges (we built two earlier as well), making lives for dozens of families so much easier. In Sohb Ji Waandh, there were at least two accidents where school-going children had fallen into the water course; scores of children now have a safe pathway to school and back.



Our work in the field of healthcare also continues to grow. Our Community Clinic, which has catered to over 7,000 patients since 2013, continues to provide free medication for many primary and secondary healthcare issues. Additionally, we helped dozens of patients in the past six months with specialist care in major cities like Larkana, Sukkur and Karachi. Under our disability assistance fund, we continued to provide aids such as wheelchairs to help restore mobility and dignity to residents in the area. We have so far helped over 65 senior citizens with cataract surgery and facilitated 26 complex heart surgeries for children and adults with congenital heart conditions. The wonderful cardiology team at Aga Khan Hospital in Karachi continues to be a solid pillar of support for us.



During the Muslim fasting month of Ramazan and just before the Eid festival, our team spent weeks lovingly preparing gifts for those who couldn't afford the same celebrations most of us are accustomed to. We delivered 300 food packages to the homes of the impoverished in several villages, we also went door-to-door giving out a new set of clothes to elderly men & women in the area and we held a big celebration where over 1,000 kids lined up to get beautiful toys as a special holiday gift. At a time when many non-profits distribute goods, it is not uncommon to see the public gathering in large crowds and fighting over packages; to us, the most important part was giving our gifts with dignity and love. That is why we arranged for our team to go house by house in various villages to deliver at the doorsteps of the people. We are so very grateful to our donors who make this kind of sharing possible.



As you all know, helping families improve their standard of living by gaining access to basic facilities is at the core of the work we do. We serve mostly farmers who work on the land of others, construction workers, loaders, donkey-cart transporters and rice mill labourers; all people who earn the lowest income levels and that too, when they can find work which is often scarce.

As we entered new villages over the last few months, the first two home improvement aspects we worked on were water hand-pump installation to provide access to clean water at home and building toilets to improve sanitation and convenience so that women and children no longer need to go into far-off fields to use the toilet. We have helped 330 families install hand-pumps at home and by the end of the year, we will have helped build 250 toilets. It costs our donors about Rs 4200 or \$35 to install a water hand-pump and Rs 6000 or \$50 to build a toilet and there is perhaps nothing that so dramatically transforms lives as these two most basic facilities.



Once we have provided families with water and toilets, we move onto housing and the construction of kitchens. We have helped over 100 families build shelter for their families; constructing one room costs about Rs 55,000 or \$466.



Women in the area had come up with the idea of built-up kitchens a few years ago so they would no longer need to cook out in the open; we began providing construction materials for them to build these and have completed building 85 kitchens with more planned for the second half of the year. A kitchen costs our donors Rs 12,000 or roughly \$120 and just like anywhere in the world gives families a space in which they can gather together.



Under our shelter project, while conducting numerous community outreach sessions in several villages, we came upon a unique problem. Farmers who own no land of their own, usually live on the land of a wealthy land owner whose land they farm in return for a share of the crop. Because they don't own their own land, they are forced to construct mud and straw huts to live in. The land owners don't provide or allow proper brick construction for fear the farmers will occupy and take over the land. Therefore these families have no choice but to live in flimsy structures that don't protect them from wind, rain and intense heat. We worked with these families and came to the following agreement: that if they built thick walls of mud on their own, we could provide sturdy roofing materials which would give them far more reliable shelter than what they had before. And the absence of brick walls would mean the land owner wouldn't object either. As an experiment, we helped 20 families in five villages put on these roofs and they were thrilled with the result. Each roof costs about Rs 15,000 or about \$125. Below, the two photos at the top show you how a roof looks before our assistance from outside and inside and the second set of photos show you how our roofing helps.



In the end, as this summer got underway we went back to the solar project we started in 2016. Over the last two years we had helped 287 families get access to solar powered fans and lights. In the area we work in, grid electricity is either not available or only available for 3 hours out of 24 and temperatures in the peak summer touch 53 degrees Celsius or 127 degrees Fahrenheit. As this summer began, we installed solar power in 50 homes in three villages in the area at the cost of Rs 6,500 per home or \$55—families put in the remaining 15 percent of the cost on their own. Many of these families had never experienced the relief of a fan at home and were absolutely overwhelmed with the comfort it provided. We plan to provide this facility to at least 150 more families this summer.



As we move ahead, we seek your generous help with the following needs:

1. Our most pressing need remains assistance with meeting our organization's **running expenses**. Obviously, if we're able to pay our small team the modest salaries they receive and pay for utilities such as electricity and necessities such as fuel, printing and stationery, then only will our projects that help those most in need be possible. To be perfectly open, most of our donors understandably are most keen to contribute to projects that directly help people and that is great. But we do need separate help to keep our wheels rolling too. Any contribution to our monthly running costs of Rs 300,000 or \$2550 would be most appreciated.
2. **Housing:** We aim to help about 10 families build shelter by December. For this we need about Rs 55,000 or \$466 per family. If anyone wants details and pictures of the family they wish to sponsor please email us and we will be happy to put together a report for you.
3. **Roofing:** After our successful experiment, we plan to help 20 more families build roofs at the cost of Rs 15,000 or \$125 each. If anyone wants details of the families, please get in touch.
4. **Food Assistance:** We usually don't give out food parcels unless there's a special holiday we don't want anyone in our communities to miss out on. The reason for this is we don't want to create new dependencies for people. However sometimes there are special circumstances that people face and have a hard time dealing with; in particular the primary income earner falls sick and is unable to support the family or a construction worker is unable to find work for large stretches of time or a farmer falls into debt unable to bear the cost of seed and other inputs. In these circumstances, we give out a food package that lasts a standard family for a month and gives them a breather and a chance to find their footing. For this, we are seeking 12 food parcels, two for each month through till December. Each parcel costs about Rs 7000 or \$60. Any contributions to this fund will be most welcome.
5. **Scholarship Fund:** When our children go back to school in the fall, many families who can't afford to buy school books, stationery, shoes or bags come to us for help. We are aiming to build a scholarship fund of Rs 100,000 or \$850 so that we're equipped to help when the need arises. Any contribution, no matter how small, will be most invaluable.
6. **Charpai Assistance:** While visiting and surveying several small villages, we noted that family sizes tend to be large—between 8 and 15 people on average. And most families can only afford about 3 charpais (the traditional rope woven beds used for sleeping indoors and outdoors) which means several people sharing one charpai or sleeping on the ground. Many women requested us to help them get more charpais so their families could sleep comfortably and as with the rest of our projects, they are willing to put in about 20 percent of the cost. In the first phase, we seek funds for 250 charpais or Rs 2200 or \$20 each. That comes to a total of Rs 550,000 or \$4660.
7. Please donate your used children's clothes, shoes, school bags and toys as long as they are clean and in good condition; we aim to get these to those who need them the most. Additionally, we always need art material—poster paper, drawing paper, markers, colour pencils, crayons--as well as playdough, jigsaw puzzles, lego blocks and other constructive toys and sports material for our Community Center. So for donors who would rather purchase and send us stuff than make a cash donation, please do keep this in mind.

In the end, we are ever so thankful to all of you for your generosity in making donations and sharing your time, energy and ideas with us. All our work is possible only because of your efforts. On behalf of our entire team and the communities we serve, please accept our deepest gratitude.

The Team
AHMMT
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