



Dear donors, supporters and friends,

You may recall from our Summer Newsletter that we spent most of the first half of the year on improving our internal projects. We built the Imam Mangi Public Art Hall that now offers free arts and crafts classes for children and adults and also provides a space and materials for free form drawing and painting. We also build a Community Park & Playground that serves hundreds of children a day who spend their free time on the swings, slides, jungle gyms, trampoline and merry-go-rounds. In the second half of the year, we introduced some improvements to our premises at Village Khairo Dero, District Larkana, where our Community Center is located and we spent a lot of our time on working with communities in dozens of other villages helping them build bridges, shelter and toilets.

Internally, we had our art teachers go through training in sketching, shading techniques, still life drawing and using oil pastels. We also had them learn a variety of new crafts such as flower making and others which they then taught to students attending classes. Then, we introduced science experiments for middle school students with the aim of increasing interest in science. This was a real hit as children enjoyed learning about and creating volcanoes, lava lamps and rainbows. Similarly, we arranged presentations and awards for our computer literacy students to help increase both their motivation and confidence. In the process, middle school students learned about public speaking and how to handle an audience.



In the sports arena, we built a skating rink and added skates, skateboards, scooters, dart boards and bows/arrows to our playground to give children exposure to a wide variety of games. Youth from nearby villages who had started playing volleyball at our playground earlier in the year continued building up their skills and in late January a district-wide volleyball tournament is scheduled to be held at our playground with hundreds of people attending. All these efforts are aimed at providing creative and healthy opportunities to children and the youth to help keep them off the streets, away from unproductive tea shops and dangerous drug and gambling dens.



In the health arena, our Community Clinic handled 5858 patients from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, providing a consultation and medication for primary healthcare issues such as malaria, infections and diarrhea and also catering to chronic conditions such as coronary heart disease, liver disease, diabetes, hypertension, epilepsy, depression and anxiety. We are also pleased to announce a new and excellent addition to our Clinic team: Dr Shahida Memon is a fresh medical school graduate and is now running a weekly clinic on Saturdays at our premises to help facilitate women who feel more comfortable sharing their health issues with her. She is working actively on counseling, lifestyle changes and chronic anemia in women to help improve their health.

This year, we helped 101 patients during the year get access to specialist care, testing and and surgical intervention in Larkana, Sukkur and Karachi. And we continue to help children and adults with congenital heart disease get diagnosed and operated on at the Aga Khan Hospital in Karachi. We have so far handled about 60 such cases and have several more in the pipeline.

Our primary focus in the last six months has been on aiming to meet the rising demand from dozens of villages for help to build homes and toilets and install water hand-pumps and solar electricity. The family assistance program remains at the core of our work simply because this is where the most demand lies. We have expanded our work to 52 villages in the Larkana district and developed a strong system that starts with a family applying for help, after which our field team conducts a survey to assess needs, prepares the family to put in their contribution and then delivers material and supervises construction or installation till the project is complete. Each family contributes between 15 and 40 percent to the total cost of each project and this share helps build both dignity and ownership.



We have so far helped 565 families build toilets at home and we have several dozen more in the pipeline. Likewise, we have helped 467 families install water hand-pumps and 624 households have access to solar-powered fans. A total of 189 families have received housing assistance to build rooms or install roofs to provide more secure shelter for their children. And we worked with a community in Village Usman Unnar—Shar to build a bridge so that dozens of people could easily cross a water course to get in and out of their villages.

Before



After



Now that 2020 is underway, we would like to apprise you of our plans and funding needs for the year. As always, we count on your support to continue the work that we do.

1. **Suzuki Bolan Van:** We are seeking help to purchase a Suzuki Bolan Van that can be used to ferry our patients to the city and also to purchase medicine and other supplies for our various projects. A vehicle will help us work more efficiently saving both time and money spent on rented transportation. We need roughly 1 million rupees for this.
2. **Community Center Solar Project:** We have some solar fans at our Community Center/Clinic but are seeking a full solar solution so that the entire project can run on solar-powered fans, lights, computers and printers. We have been working with various vendors to come up with the most economical solution and need about 700,000 rupees for this.
3. **TCF School Solar Project:** The summer heat in Larkana is intense: above 50 degrees Celsius or 114 degrees Fahrenheit. Electricity from the grid is available no more than a few hours out of 24 and outages last for days. In order to provide a more comfortable environment for our 800 students, we are seeking a total of 1.8 million rupees to provide solar-powered fans in all classrooms.
4. **Toilets:** We are aiming to help 500 families build toilets in 2020; each toilet costs us about 8000 rupees with the labour, door and earth filling put in by the beneficiary families. We are seeking a total of 4 million rupees for this project.
5. **Solar Home Kits:** We are aiming to help 500 families get access to solar fans in the summer. Beneficiaries will put in part of the cost and we expect each solar kit will cost us about 12,000 rupees. We need a total of 6 million rupees to meet this goal.
6. **Housing Fund:** We have been working with families to build their own walls and we then help by providing the roofing materials which cost 15,000 rupees per home. We're aiming to build up a housing fund so that whenever a family in need applies for assistance, we're immediately able to evaluate and help them.
7. **CHD Fund:** After securing welfare assistance from the hospital, we still need an average of 250,000 rupees per case to help patients with congenital heart disease get through surgery. We are aiming to build up a CHD fund so that we can continue to take patients through the process without delays caused by a paucity of funds.
8. **Public Water Stand:** Our Public Water Stand serves cold drinking water in the simmering summer months from March through October to farmers, labourers, school children and passers-by. For this, we need 23,000 rupees per month or a total of 276,000 rupees to buy sufficient ice to cater to nearly a thousand people a day.
9. **Community Center Running Costs:** Our Community Center, which includes a park and playground, a computer lab for classes, our public art hall, a library and a game & activity room for kids is a vital public facility and the heart of the villages it serves. To keep it going, we need about 125,000 rupees a month or 1.5 million rupees for the year. If anyone needs details on the breakdown, please do get in touch.

Friends, Sindh's villages are among the most neglected areas of Pakistan. Waiting for the government or political parties to take action seems utterly futile. And it is simply not enough for us as members of society to talk about problems without working to solve them. Please share your funds, ideas and expertise to help us make improvements in the lives of people, no matter how small. You can reach us at mt@alihanmangittrust.org with any questions or suggestions. In the end, from the entire team at AHMMT, we wish you all a very happy new year and offer our most sincere gratitude for your support.

The Team at AHMMT
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