



Ali Hasan Mangi

Memorial Trust

Changing Lives. One Village at a Time

Newsletter
Summer 2021

Dear donors, supporters and friends,

After the challenges of 2020 brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, we began 2021 with a focus on understanding the current needs of the communities we serve. As Pakistan went through repeated waves of the virus and subsequent lockdowns, we began to see rising applications for food assistance and our field team went door to door assessing how families were affected and how we could help.

Through our food assistance program, we were able to help 100 families with food packages sufficient to feed a large family for one month. To prevent crowding and preserve the privacy and dignity of beneficiary families, our team delivered these packages at the doorsteps of families.



Since children are accustomed to coming by our Community Center after school to use the playground, activity room or art hall, we have seen a substantial drop in the number of children visiting the facility since schools remained closed due to Covid-19. We used this time to continue the renovation we began in 2020; we completed our new and expanded public reception area where families apply for assistance in building homes and toilets. We also continued to work on building a new children's activity hall and public library which are now in the final stages and scheduled to open August 1.



In January, we started our Family Health Program, a new project aimed at improving understanding within communities about family planning, mother and child health and infectious diseases. After years of trying, we were finally able to raise the funds required to buy a van that would allow our community health workers to travel from one village to another to hold meetings with women. Our team of two health workers held dozens of meetings with over



1,200 women in 34 villages between January and May. Our medical experts prepared video training materials in the Sindhi language that were used to train our field workers in important issues such as birth spacing, maternal health, the importance of breast feeding, Covid-19, and children's health issues including parasites, malaria and diarrhoea. This information was then transmitted to women in the communities through neighbourhood meetings. In May, we had to temporarily stop the program when the number of Covid-19 cases in communities began to rise and we became concerned about our team's safety. The program will resume this summer.

Our Community Clinic remained opened throughout the past six months after some closures in 2020. Our three health practitioners continued to see an average of 700 patients a month and dispense free medication for primary and chronic health issues. Through our medical assistance program, we were able to help 10 patients through complex heart surgery and assist another 65 patients with surgery, specialist care and expensive treatment for conditions such as hepatitis B & D.



Our family assistance program also continued this year with an emphasis on building toilets since most people live without proper toilets or waste disposal in villages across Sindh. We have so far built 1350 toilets in 95 villages and expect to surpass our December-end target of 1500 toilets. We provide building materials to construct the toilet and soak pit as well as design and supervision and beneficiary families pay the mason 1650 rupees as a fee to build and they also put in the labour themselves. Each toilet costs our donors 11,125 rupees (\$70).



We also provide water handpumps to families where women are spending time and energy fetching water from outside the house. Each handpump costs around 5000 rupees and beneficiary families pay about 2500 rupees themselves for installation. We have installed about 570 handpumps in 65 villages.

We help families build adequate shelter by providing bricks and/or roofing material to those who live in mud huts. Families contribute about 40 percent of the cost toward building their homes. We have helped 237 families in 49 villages build homes or install roofs.



For the rest of 2021, we are funded for toilets and have donors with pledges for handpumps. We are seeking help in two primary areas:

1. **Housing:** We constantly receive applications from families for assistance with installing roofs or building rooms. It costs about 20,000 rupees to install a roof of iron girders, bamboo sticks and bamboo sheets and about 70,000 rupees to provide 9000 bricks which are sufficient to build a room 15 feet by 12 feet in size. If we are able to raise funds for our housing project, we won't need to keep families waiting every time they apply; once we receive and review applications, we can begin work right away. Any contributions to this project would be very welcome and each donor will receive a full report on the family they helped.

2. **Community Center Operational Expenses:** Our Community Center, which opened in 2011, includes a public library, a children's activity hall, a public art hall, a skills training center, a park & playground and a public water stand where people can get a cold drink of water. To run this facility, we need to pay staff salaries and overheads/maintenance. We firmly believe that children and families everywhere have the right to safe and creative spaces where they can learn skills, relax and enjoy positive activities. If anyone is interested in helping us keep the Community Center running, please do get in touch via email and we will be happy to provide details.

Thank you for reading. Please write to us at mt@alihanmangitrust.org with your questions or comments. As always, we would love to hear from you.

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