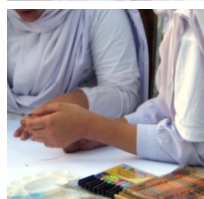
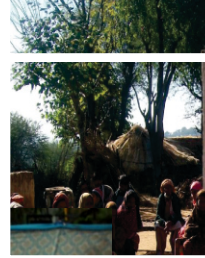
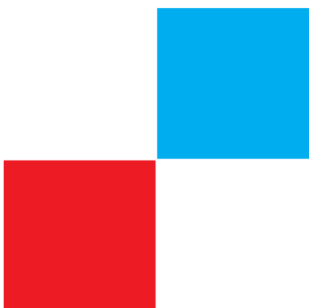


# Annual Report 2014



**Aiming Change for Tomorrow  
(ACT) International**




ACT International would welcome reproduction & dissemination of the contents of this report with due acknowledgment.

Prepared by: Media & Communication Unit  
Printed & Designed by: MM Enterprises

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Aiming Change for Tomorrow (ACT) International is a not-for-profit rights based national organization focusing on women, youth, children and marginalized sections of society. It is a growing organization created by a visionary team of development sector specialists who are conscious about the developmental needs of the communities in this part of the world. The group of development practitioners and professionals envisaged the need of ACT International to serve as a catalyst for change process by engaging the civil society organizations, public sector service providers and disadvantaged groups of communities at large with a motive of better tomorrow for all.

# ACRONYMS

ACT	Aiming Change for Tomorrow
AF	Aurat Foundation
AJK	Azad Jammu & Kashmir
BBC	BISP Beneficiary Committee
BHU	Basic Health Unit
BISP	Benazir Income Support Programme
BoD	Board of Directors
BTC	BISP Tehsil Committee
BUCC	BISP Union Council Committee
CBO	Community Based Organization
CPI	Community Physical Infrastructure
CSGs	Civil Society Groups
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FDMA	FATA Disaster Management Authority
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HEC	Higher Education Commission
IKE Forums	Information, Knowledge, Exchange Forums
KP	Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MNCH	Maternal Newborn and Child Health
MSCA	Micro Supply Capacity Assessment
NET	Noor Education Trust
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NYS	National Youth Summit
PTV	Pakistan Television
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
SM	Social Mobilization
SM-NCTP	Social Mobilization-National Cash Transfer Programme
TAC	The Advocacy Channel
TMG	Tehsil Mentor Groups
UC	Union Council
WeT	Waseela-e-Taleem programme
WISE	Wilful Initiative for Social Empowerment
YAF	Youth Advocacy Forums

# About ACT-International

## **Vision:**

Aiming for tomorrow where every one has opportunities.

## **Mission:**

Empowering communities to recover, progress and advance by building peoples' engagement, capacity and partnership focusing women and children for a better tomorrow.

## **Core Values:**

- ✓ Our mission and humanitarian values impel us to act for a better tomorrow
- ✓ Participation for attaining ownership leading to community empowerment
- ✓ Transparency for making humanitarian actions accountable to stakeholders
- ✓ Equality for realizing the rights of disadvantaged and discriminated
- ✓ Innovation for achieving excellence to up-bring the lives of marginalized
- ✓ Responsibility for serving the underprivileged voluntarily

## Objectives:

The objectives of the organization include:

- ✓ **Improve Access and Quality of Services**  
Improve the overall quality of standard of life of marginalized communities.
- ✓ Develop constituencies by adopting participatory working approach in collaboration with all stakeholders including government, civil society organizations, communities and donor agencies.
- ✓ Ensure access to quality education, health and livelihood opportunities by adopting Integrated Area Development Approach focusing on women, youth and children.
- ✓ **Improve Access to Basic Rights**  
Improve the condition of women, youth and children with perspective of their rights and protect them from abuse neglect and exploitation.
- ✓ Plan, co-ordinate and implement Public Legal Education & Awareness programmes in Pakistan, AJK & FATA.
- ✓ **Piloting Models and Research Initiatives**  
Plan community focused research and produce communication material to disseminate at policy and community level.
- ✓ Demonstrate innovative low cost integrated development models which contribute in enhancing the capacities and skills of marginalized communities to ensure sustainable right based development.
- ✓ **Building Partnerships and Networks**  
Enhance levels of cooperation, coordination and participation among NGOs and umbrella organizations comprising of similar aims and objectives.
- ✓ Build local partnerships with Civil Society Groups (CSGs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and local NGOs to achieve the common aims and objectives of the organization.

## Thematic Areas



\* Thematic areas given in red have been rolled out whereas ones in black are yet to be rolled out in 2015

# GEOGRAPHICAL OUTREACH



Head Office

Regional Offices

Districts Offices

Outreach Offices

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# FOREWORD

Aiming Change for Tomorrow (ACT) International is a registered not-for-profit organization which particularly works with disadvantaged segments of society to empower communities by building peoples' engagement, capacity and partnership focusing on women and children for a better tomorrow. The organization aims to develop partnerships and innovative programmes with the support of development actors to contribute in the efforts of "Aiming Change for Tomorrow".

Registered on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the organization has leaped forward over a period of more than 2 years, and achieved various successes through its activities, projects and programmes. While the organization has a working approach of social mobilization in all its programmes, it has successfully completed the pilot phase of Social Mobilization-National Cash Transfer Programme (SM-NCTP) of Benazir Income Support Programme in collaboration with Aurat Foundation, and moved forward in 2013 to launch its extended phase which included further extension of the pilot testing in 20 districts across Pakistan. In 2014, the overall scope of the programme was enriched and it included registration of women and children, admission and attendance compliance as well as monitoring in 32 districts across the country.

Similarly, the organization began a GBV (Gender Based Violence) programme in collaboration of Trocaire in three districts of KP to reduce tolerance against GBV and social mobilization of women to access GBV

related services in Mardan, Noshehra and Swabi. The organization has also begun testing of a youth led governance programme i.e. YAF in six districts around the country. Moreover, ACT International also conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Youth Summit in row in 2014, which is a unique leadership development programme with a mission to involve youth, build their capacity and provide them an opportunity to understand local, regional, national and global issues and their complexities under its Youth Development programme.

ACT International has also been engaged in a number of other activities in 2014. It has conducted a baseline for bridging gaps between education service providers in FATA and AJK. Further, it has been engaged in adopting advocacy work through multiple means. The organization conducted a seminar on environment followed by a walk in Muzaffarabad on the World Environment Day in June 2014, and it has also launched a study titled Education4Sustainability.

The International Day of Peace was also celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> September in Muzaffarabad, AJK. Similarly, the organization has been engaged in 16 days of activism from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December, during which a number of activities were performed including walks, seminars, school engagements and press and community engagements. Lastly, the organization has launched an Advocacy Channel, focused towards efforts of development actors and stakeholders to meet the needs of the development sector with perspective of futuristic needs.

# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



It is a moment of pleasure for me to pen down my thoughts for the annual report of ACT International for 2014. If we plainly go through the manifesto of ACT International,

we can find that it was purposefully created with a vision to act in versatile ways for the development activities using different means and methods including developing partnerships, engaging various stakeholders, creating linkages and through philanthropy.

Today, after over 2 years of the existence of ACT International, I feel that the organization has been able to achieve the vision through multiple partnerships, innovative approaches, and strong linkages with community, civil society and government, and building constituencies for philanthropy.

It was never an easy journey for our team to sail through the hardships that any new entity has to face in form of benefits, resources and timeframe. However, as it is evident that hard work, commitment and responsible activism can lead to successes in all endeavors that we plan. I feel that such is the story of ACT International also. While beginning as a small entity to enter the development sector in Pakistan, it has certainly achieved a credible status of a national civil society organization with leading and diversified programmes on women, education, youth and health

through social mobilization and advocacy.

I find it equally interesting that ACT International has also put efforts to further increase accountability and transparency in the organization. For instance, the offices of CEO and Chairperson were separated to further the responsibility and similarly an independent Audit and Finance Committee has been introduced to ensure financial accountability. Moreover, an independent audit unit has also been established to ensure transparency and effective financial management.

I would like to appreciate and congratulate the CEO and the team of ACT International, who are motivated and committed to the cause of our goal and mission, for their untiring efforts for the achievements of the organization. I would like to thank all our supporters, partners and friends in the community, media, the civil society and the government for helping us achieve the vision of ACT International.

Chaudhary Israr ul Haque

# CEO'S MESSAGE



On writing this message for our annual report, I feel pleasure and pride for the commitment of my team and all our partners, friends and supporters in letting us reach to higher ladders in the

development process of our country. Beginning in 2012, ACT International is going to be three in the March of 2015, and as we see through the time that has passed, there is a great deal of satisfaction and contentment that I and my team feel.

While the organization had begun its activities with the pilot testing of social mobilization in the beginning with its partner organization Aurat Foundation, it has been able to advance through and begin several other programmes on the Planned thematic areas. For instance, the pilot phase of the SM programme has been able to get an extension and it has been rolled-out at the national level in 2014. Moreover, the organization has also partnered with Trocaire for a programme to reduce tolerance against GBV in three districts of KP. The organization has conducted two National Youth Summits in 2013 and 2014 respectively, and similarly began an independent component Youth Advocacy Forums in six districts across the country, under its youth development programme.

During the journey, ACT International has been engaged in events and activities related to intercultural and interfaith harmony, peace, environment and youth.

The international days of peace, interfaith harmony and environment have been regularly celebrated through the life of ACT International.

As advocacy has always been considered vital and it has also remained a priority for us, ACT International has launched a platform titled The Advocacy Channel. It is a platform to utilize multiple tools of advocacy including evidence generation, upstream engagement, awareness raising, communications and media work, communications for behavior change, developing partnerships, coalitions and alliances, lobbying and negotiating, campaigning, public relations, research, publications, work with children and young people, social mobilization and arranging events and conferences, etc.

As it is our philosophy, we believe in engaging other stakeholders, developing partnerships and coalitions, and involving community in general and beneficiaries in particular, the entire focus of organization remains on common efforts for common causes, and not a solo approach which we believe is against the spirit of development itself. Thus, I would like to share our endeavors of 2014 with a hope that we will be able to proactively work with various development actors for a better future of ourtomorrows in 2015.

Mubashar Nabi

# OUR APPROACH

## SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

Social Mobilization is the core working approach of ACT International with a goal of development through capacity building and local institutional strengthening. The approach is followed in all its projects and programmes to ensure the inclusiveness and ownership of the activities by the local communities.

The social mobilization approach is led by the community and it also builds capacity of the communities to manage the development process by blending the rights based programming in the context of community, particularly ultra-poor. The approach aims to achieve an all-round development so that an enabling environment is created to secure the rights of community, particularly women & children and sustainable development for communities. It is based on the conviction that the communities with improved socio-economic standing are more sensitized and empowered to protect the rights of all segments of society, particularly children, so that they can grow and develop in highly conducive environment.

The core programme is operative in the selected Union Councils. It is here that the area development approach is employed. Apex organizations are also formed at union council/village cluster level and community organizations at hamlet level as well as Village Development Organizations at village level, represented by all segments of communities and particularly marginalized and most vulnerable. These forums are important to stakeholders in design and

development of sustainable community uplift programmes at community, village and union council/village cluster levels.

Vertically, it addresses the rights of society particularly community at large in terms of survival, growth and development. However, horizontally it encompasses the areas of protection, social safety net, services, voices of marginalized groups specially women, children and young people. These plans cover a wide range of extended services offered principally through education, health, livelihood, policy advocacy, child protection and disaster preparedness components.

The outreach programme revolves around the improvement of service delivery at outreach focusing on health, education, livelihoods, gender, disaster preparedness and capacity building. This allows organization to reach maximum communities requiring basic services. Additionally, a number of innovative approaches are also being piloted and replicated through this programme.

### **Basic principles of the social mobilization strategy**

The social mobilization approach follows a participatory process to raise awareness, mobilize and involve all key actors of local communities and ensure meaningful participation of communities to organize for collective action while contributing towards the common goal. It includes:

- Address collective and individual needs of the community by developing the partnerships with all stakeholders.

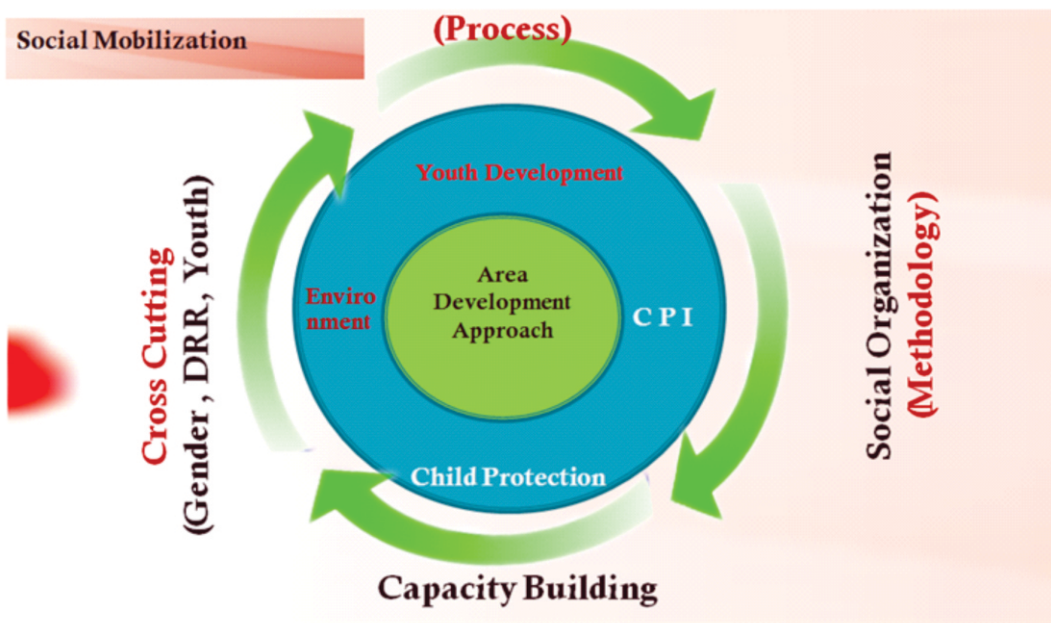
- The strategy follows the essentials of the community development focusing on social and economic development, enhancing the capacities of local communities so that the communities are able to organize themselves, manage their resources, mitigate issues and become self-reliant at community level, focusing on rights based approach to expand access to basic services for the poor, particularly in the areas of protection, education and health for communities and empower the community to enhance their ability to hold public as well as other institutions accountable.
- Greatly gender focused where equal importance is given to the development of women to minimize the discrimination and encourage them to participate in the planning and implementation of the activities.

- The village forum is the center place to create harmony among the community members, resolving conflicts and building constituencies.

- Forums are formed at local and village level depending on the geographical proximity of the village. Similarly, apex organizations are formed at union council level with the consensus of all forums with the representation of members designated from each forum.

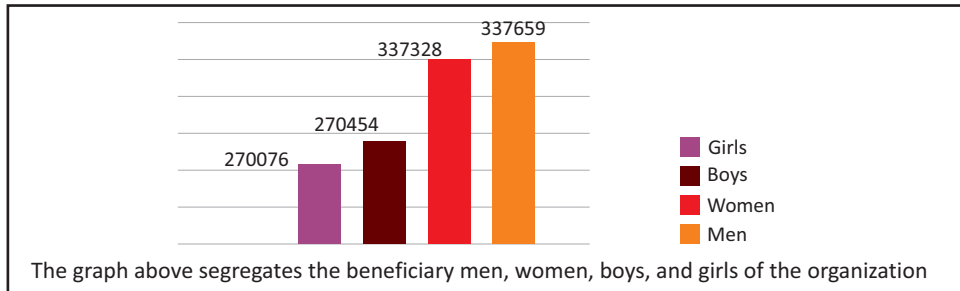
- The forums are important to the stakeholders for designing, preparation, implementation and monitoring of community programmes at village and Union Council level; whereas for outreach programme, the strategy is formed focusing on the nature and type of the project.

The diagram below specifies the model of social mobilization that ACT International follows:



# OUTREACH IN NUMBERS

In quantitative terms, ACT International has reached out to and mobilized women, men and youth through various program interventions across the country. The details are given in the following:



879,171

Total Beneficiaries

Total numbers of districts with organizational presence.

18

3,596

Men, women, boys & girls in 3 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, under GBV programme

Youth under the Youth Advocacy Forums in 6 districts across the country

1,030

486,959

Out-of-school children in contact for their enrollment at school

Women from Ultra-poor marginalized families who are beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support Programme

336,346

51,420

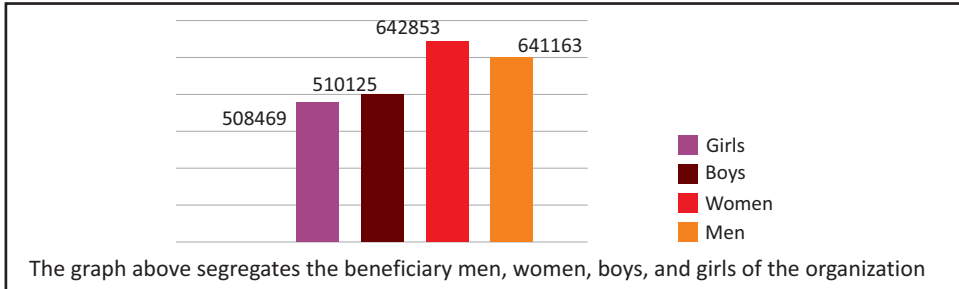
Boys & girls under the National Youth Summit

Also partnered with:

- 3 public sector universities and Higher Education Commission;
- 5 corporate entities; and
- 6 NGOs, CSOs and development focused organizations.

# FUTURE OUTREACH

ACT International is expected to outreach and mobilize a number of women, men and youth through various current and upcoming programme interventions across the country. The expected outreach is given in the following:



**1,669,531**

Total Beneficiaries

**633,393**

Women from Ultra-poor marginalized families who are beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support Programme

**553,618**

Number of women registered

**888,642**

Total number of registered children of BISP WeT Beneficiaries

**34,716**

Women, men, youth, media persons, lawyers and local government officials have reduced tolerance against GBV.

**28**

Total numbers of districts with organizational presence.

**105,210**

Boys & girls under the National Youth Summit

Also partnering with:

- ☞ 20 public sector universities and Higher Education Commission;
- ☞ corporate entities; and
- ☞ NGOs, CSOs and development focused organizations

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## SOCIAL MOBILIZATION FOR WASEELA-E-TALEEM PROGRAMME

Beginning as a pilot project, in collaboration with Aurat Foundation, to test a social mobilization strategy with a preliminary strategy by using an adoptive research model for the beneficiaries of BISP across the country including AJK and GB, under the Waseela-e-Taleem programme (WeT), the Social Mobilization project began in six districts initially. In continuation of the pilot test phase learning and experience, the geographical scope of the project was extended to 14 more districts in 2013 to give a detailed analysis of the findings and field learning on incremental basis during the project cycle.

On the basis of learning and hands on experience about the rolling out of SM and other components of WeT programme, it was clearly evident that a vigorous engagement of BISP women beneficiary is desired to ensure 100% enrolment of WeT women beneficiary children by continuous persuasion and hand holding and aggressive approach of beneficiary

communication in programme outreach.

This incremental approach of adopting the learning during the implementation of the programme also gave an immense clarity and opportunity to refine the overall working approach of WeT programme, and as a result the overall operational design of



A social organizer imparting an awareness session on Waseela e Taleem programme in its initial phase

WeT programme was reviewed and consensus was made that there is ample desire to integrate the overall operations of WeT programme. As a result, a revised

operational strategy has been adopted and a phasing out plan of WeT districts has been devised in the overall project cycle.

According to the phasing out plan of districts, the overall 32 districts have been divided into three categories and they are being treated accordingly.

1) The initial 5 districts of pilot phase which include Mirpur, Noshki, Karachi South,

### Activity

### Number

Number of BBCs formed	11,212
Number of BUCCs formed	215
Number of BTCs formed	18
Number of Women Leaders trained	11,215
Number of Students Enrolled	486,959
Number of Women Mapped	336,346
Number of Registrations	302,065

\* The progress of operational districts of ACT International



### Admission & Attendance Compliance Operation

While continuing the activities of the programme, the project performed an admission and attendance compliance operation in 5 pilot districts. BISP had registered a total of 75,609 children of beneficiaries in Waseela-e-Taleem Programme in 5 districts of initial test phase, out of which, only 37,312 children had ensured admission compliance. Out of 37,312 children who complied with the admission requirement, 29,389 children were verified as school going. The remaining 46,220 children were supposed to comply with admission requirement but did not do so.

In order to ensure 100% admissions of all the registered children and attendance verification of school going children, the project mobilized remaining 46,220 children of WET beneficiaries for their admissions in schools and verified attendance of 29,389 attending children.

Admission and Attendance Verification Operation was launched mutually by BISP, AF and ACT International in five districts of initial test phase, starting from April 01, 2014 and ending on 1st June, 2014.

Skardu, and Malakand fall in the phase one stage and extensive engagements are being carried out in these districts from July 14 until June 15 and afterwards the proposed structure will be squeezed with a limited scope of activities including periodic quarterly attendance compliance. Moreover, partial support will be extended to the BBC committees and finally phasing out plan will be developed before 31 July 2016 in consultation with BISP.

2) In follow up of that, the next 11 districts (Gilgit, Bagh, Mansehra, Charsada, Kohat, Loralai, Jhal Magsi, Gawadar, Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sukkur ) where the process of mapping and formation of women beneficiary committees (BBCs) is almost completed, will fall in phase 2 of the ladder. In these districts, major interventions pertaining to MSCA (Micro



BISP Beneficiaries are being briefed on Waseela-e-Taleem and other BISP Programmes in South Karachi

ACT International is a technical partner of Aurat Foundation for SM project where it provides technical support to the project across the country. It has extensive role in reviewing the design and implementation strategy of the project in consultation with the lead organization i.e. Aurat Foundation and the key stakeholder i.e. BISP

Supply Capacity Assessment) of public schools, registration and admission verification followed by attendance compliance and persuasion of non-compliant WeT beneficiary pertaining to their registration and admission is being carried out. The said districts will enter into phasing out paradigm from January 2016

and after developing the phasing out plan, the districts will be handed over to BISP. However, from January 16 to July 16, the major activities will be consolidation of women committees and periodic quarterly attendance compliance.

structures will be handed over to BISP. Initially, mapping of active and pending beneficiaries is being carried out in the project outreach. Beneficiary communication and MSCA run parallel to mapping. Similarly, formation of BISP



3) The remaining 16 new districts (Raheemyar khan, Bahawalpur,

beneficiary committees is another milestone. Follow up of non-compliant



BISP beneficiaries are being imparted an orientation session on WeT Programme



A registration center in Bagh, where BISP beneficiaries are being registered

Bahawalnagar, Khushab, Sialkot, Rawalpindi, Narowal, Bannu, Noshera, Haripur, Kamber, shehzadkot, Thatta, Awaran, Musakhail, Diamir, Kotli) fall in the third ladder of the phasing plan. According to the plan, all project cycle process starting (July 14 to June 16) from mapping to MSCA to quarterly attendance compliance is being carried out followed by a detailed phasing out plan which will be developed in consultation with BISP and thereby, the SM

beneficiary children for admission and attendance is being done on regular basis. Moreover, recording of beneficiary grievances is another activity by the field staff who then communicate the grievances to BISP office. BISP, thus, updates the record after addressal of the grievance.

## GBV PREVENTION THROUGH SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AND ADVOCACY

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a universal reality of all societies regardless of income, class and culture. The phenomenon is persistent across all socio-economic classes, religions, ethnicities and the urban/rural divide in Pakistan. GBV has its roots in a masculine social structure which presents a submissive outlay for women. Violence and its threat contribute to the low indicators for women's development in the country. In this context, ACT International began to work on GBV, with the support of Trocaire, by social mobilization and district based advocacy programming as means of community engagement and constituency building for GBV. The project is being carried out in 6 Union Councils of the three districts of KP (i.e. Nowshera, Mardan and Swabi).

The project working approach is based on two major strategies, i.e. social mobilization for prevention of GBV and advocacy for strengthening GBV response services prevailing in the targeted districts to reduce tolerance against GBV. The project aims at generating demand at community level by increasing awareness, building constituencies and sharing knowledge in the community regarding GBV issues and improved linkages with service providers which will ultimately result in increased responsiveness, improved capacity and contributes directly in strengthening the local/district level system of responsiveness for GBV victims.

Thus, ACT International is on track to implement a strategy to create a demand and improve responsiveness of the relevant stakeholders. The project has executed a set of activities i.e. baseline survey, orientation workshops, orientation meetings, formulation of Wilful Initiative for Social Empowerment (WISE) groups, capacity building of WISE groups, development of

GBV prevention plan, district advocacy plan etc. during the project cycle. The project engagement is expected to impact 34,716 beneficiaries in the selected areas.

The project started its pre roll-out activities as per agreed plan. To begin the work, field teams were oriented on the interventions and geographical coverage of the project. Thereafter, four day orientation workshop was held in Islamabad in October 2014. At the end of the workshop, the respective field teams prepared village wise implementation plans to conduct baseline. Similarly, complete baseline implementation plan, monitoring plan, data evaluation plan, methodology and tool kit were prepared.

As part of the programme, introductory visits, and opening meetings were carried out in the targeted villages. During these visits the teams conducted transect walk and met with 40 community elders, 66 male community members, and 52 female community members, visited four schools and met 20 teachers to develop rapport.

### Long Term Outcome of the Project:

Women, men, youth, media persons, lawyers and local government officials (influential) in targeted areas have reduced tolerance against GBV

The initial identification of targeted community members has been done and the formation of 48 WISE groups' stands completed. This identification process was completed after more than 96 visits in all the 12 project villages. In some cases, some communities were approached where the NET, a partner of Trocaire, has been working previously therefore some basic ground work and human resource that was previously stimulated was used for the pre-formation discussion and formation of

### WISE groups.

The initial dialogue with the identified groups' representatives has been completed and all groups have been identified. A total of 20 group members were engaged for discussion instead of proposed 15 for the initial dialogue. The reason for the recruitment of additional members is a pre-emptive approach to cover up, if any of the members may leave the group, for any unforeseen reason. The pre-formation meetings are in the process, and out of total 48 meetings, 16 have been conducted.

A total of 4 initial dialogues with the representatives from district press clubs, district bars and local bodies' representatives have also been completed.



A group of women sharing their opinions on a free wall during 16 days of Activism against GBV

The formation of GBV committees is also a part of the project, and thus the target is being achieved as per the time line.

The project is in the post roll-out stage, yet at the initial stages, networking with elders, imam masjids, teachers & stakeholders

Community Elders Sensitized	118
Community Members Sensitized (Male, Female)	20

especially social welfare department is expected to have a significant impact on the interventions in future. This networking will keep on feeding the project objective positively throughout the project life cycle and achieving ultimate outcome for the project.

At organizational level, the knowledge and understanding of the project staff regarding GBV has improved, and the management has also decided to have equal ratio of male and female at all ACT International offices.

During baseline survey, the project staff came across many cultural challenges and in the process of mitigation, learned many vital lessons. In the baseline, disabled and HIV victims were also under special consideration.

ACT International has strong networking with government line departments such as social welfare department and district administration. During commemorating 16 days of activism, three seminars were performed at UC level, where government line departments fully participated and assured their support in future interventions.

ACT International is involved in advocacy at district level with long term objective of strengthening district level stakeholders (media, bar council and local government bodies) who are actively reporting and emphasizing upon GBV related laws and

their implementation. The results of the project are yet awaited, but the response generated from the community highlights the efficacy of the partnership between ACT International and Trocaire.

#### Activity

#### Beneficiaries/Number

Number of Total Beneficiaries	3,596
Number of Men	1313
Number of Women	982
Number of Boys	674
Number of Girls	627

## YOUTH ADVOCACY FORUMS

Youth is the major part of Pakistani society, as more than 60% of Pakistan's population consists of youth and being a major part of population, youth has a significant role in society. ACT International believes on sustainable youth development process and impels need to drive youth involvement at three levels which includes national, regional and district level. It considers that the primary level of involvement of youth should be predominantly at local level by doing 'actions', followed by influencing at policy level and ultimately contributing at strategic level. Therefore, it has been envisioned that youth needs to be involved in different interventions by building their capacity and enhance their existing life skills.

Thus, under the consideration and sustained engagement of youth in different interventions, it is pertinent to ensure a 'youth owned institutional' arrangement which can serve as the nucleus of youth activists and help in persuading the agenda of youth development and facilitate in determination for learning and replicate the model by opting natural spin over impact of activities.

Keeping in view the regional, cultural, geographical and demographic situation, ACT International has piloted a programme for the engagement of youth by using three tiers of structured representation of youth both vertically and horizontally.

Youth Advocacy Forums-YAF is the first youth led platform, a democratic network made and run by the young people of Pakistan, aimed at creating a forum for dialogue, discussion, and resolution about rights of young people including peace, capacity building, cultural integration and equal opportunities in Pakistan. YAF also imparts advocacy skills to young people of

Pakistan and raises awareness amongst the youth and multiple stakeholders to advocate for their rights. YAF is aimed at creating a forum for dialogue, discussion, cooperation and resolution related to problems about education, employment, life skills, and peace and conflict resolution in Pakistan.

### Specific role of YAF members' activities

1. **Facilitating consultations:** With other youth in their regions and surrounding areas.
2. **Providing strategic advice:** On the priorities of young people.
3. **Promoting the priorities and voices of young people:** In the advocacy messages and activities of ACT International.
4. **Mobilizing young people and governments:** To make pledges in support of education and hold them accountable to their commitments.
5. **Contributing:** In peace development efforts
6. **Improving Life Skills:** By engaging young peer groups
7. **Build the capacity:** Regarding Conflict Resolution amongst young peer groups
8. **Provide opportunity:** To improve Leadership skills
9. **Governance:** By adopting evidence based research and meaningful engagement/consultation with different stakeholders for improving the local government.

Youth Advocacy Forums aims to improve the quality of life for young people in Pakistan by involving and engaging them at local level and persuasion of the issues regarding youth at policy level. It also aims to campaigning and dialoging with policy makers and traditional leaders, and

awareness raising campaigns for youth in Pakistan. It also aims to reduce high risk of extreme behaviors of conflict, through information and skill building of young people on life skills, civic education and peace and conflict resolution. At advocacy level, it aims to highlight the issues pertaining to youth at policy level. Ultimately, it ensures youth to become agents of change in their communities.

The concept of YAF lies on the belief that youth has an obligation to educate and encourage policy makers to be active in acknowledging and protecting civic rights of young people. Moreover, young people have a valuable contribution to make to society and collectively they can change the world for the better.

Since, there is a strong need to address young people's issues; by adopting the youth engagement and involvement, rights-based, gender-responsive and empowering approach. YAF members work with the young people and impart life and advocacy skills to them, so that they can advocate for their rights and make their voices heard.

YAF also acts as an umbrella platform from

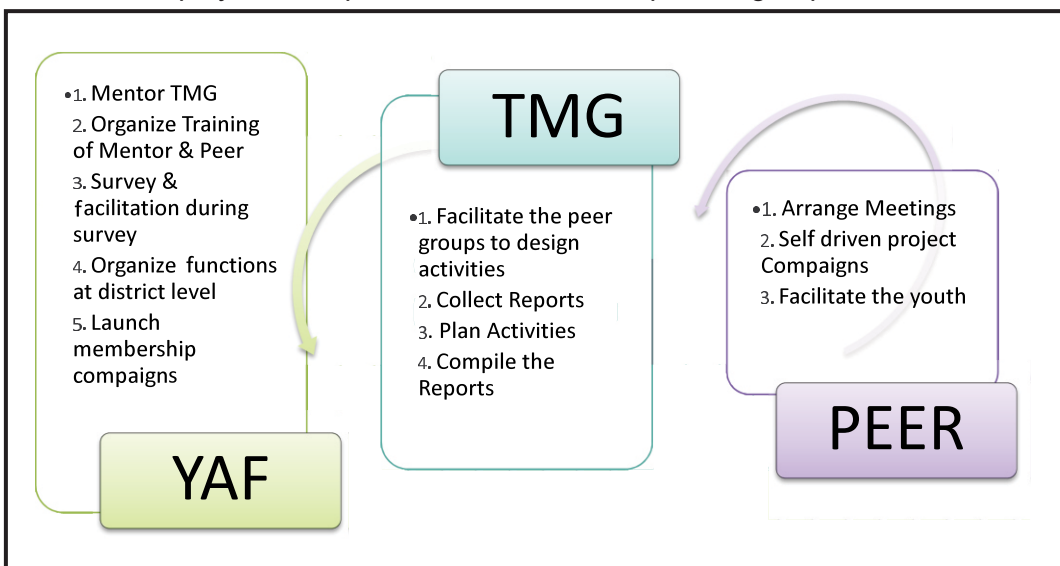
institutions, rural/ urban communities to district level. After having orientation, competence and improved life skills, YAF members launch and campaign for volunteers' membership. It also positively contributes in enhancing the volunteer network of ACT International.

#### Advocacy Efforts:

ACT International understands the importance of advocacy to achieve its goals and objectives. Therefore, the organization has been actively engaged in advocating for citizen's rights with an aim to facilitate a movement for positive social change and community empowerment through mass literacy, enhanced quality of health facilities, universal primary education, grassroots economic development, environmental awareness, youth development and child protection as its core themes of advocacy.

Advocacy plays a major role in transforming the policy change which helps in changing the attitudes, behaviors and performance of a society, community or public institutions. Thus, the programme carries

The following diagram shows the activities of different ladders of YAF Programme, and it also displays the responsibilities of each respective group:



out number of activities with the help of given institutional arrangements Peer Groups, TMG's and YAF showcase the issues, challenges and internal & external factors pertaining to youth development & its meaningful engagement. These case studies, research work and self-driven projects carried by youth are the primary source for influencing policy makers for change.

Therefore, the advocacy and awareness campaigns are the core subject of the YAFs. YAFs are provided with proper infrastructure, training and other resources by ACT International in achieving their advocacy and awareness goals as per their specific outreach requirements.



Members of a Peer group engaged in voting to elect team lead and the secretary

### Programme Cycle:

The overall YAF programme creates a tiered structure and contributes to the overall mission of ACT International. The programme cycle is established in a manner which could ensure sustainability of the programme, which includes inclusion of young people through institutional and community engagement. The programme consists of a number of volunteers who are catered through the peer groups at the grassroots level. The programme interventions move forward with the training of the members of peer groups on leadership development and civic

engagement, their capacity building and involvement in electing the members of TMGs. The TMGs are responsible to mentor the peer groups further, engage with community and elect members of YAFs. The members of YAF act as the highest forum within the structure and contribute to advocacy and developmental efforts which cater to the needs of the young people in their respective communities.

Overall, the programme retrieves out region/community focused issues and propose interventions which could directly or indirectly resolve them through engaging community in general and young people including members of TMGs and peer groups as well as volunteers in particular. It does not only generate voice but also calves out local solutions for challenges ranging from smaller community based challenges to larger global level. The sustainability of the model is ensured through constant involvement of young people in all the processes, and the members of each tier hold office for no more than 2 years or till reaching the age of 29. Thereafter, newer members are elected at the vacant positions, and while there is constant electoral process, it also serves as a catalyst of sustainability of the model as in the structure shall exist and every new member shall become part of the structure with similar sense of responsibility, ideology, commitment and ethics maintained at the beginning of the programme.

## NATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT 2014

National Youth Summit 2014 was inaugurated in Islamabad taking place from 11th to 14th December 2014. The 2014 summit was the 2nd youth summit in row as part of ACT International's mission to involve youth, build their capacity and provide them an opportunity to understand local, regional, national and global issues and their complexities. Commoner partnered in the event for the cause of young people under CSR to promote the role of arts, peace and culture in the advancement of society.

### Summit Theme:

**Arts, Peace and Culture: the lighter side of Pakistan.**

The inaugural session was addressed by Mr. Farman Ullah, DG programmes HEC, who was also the chief guest, Mr. Akhlaq Rasool CEO AJK Rural Support Programme, Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb from Aurat Foundation and Ch. Israr-ul-Haque, Chairperson ACT International.

National Youth Summit is an endeavor to enhance leadership capacity, build confidence, introduce the youth to the social challenges, inculcate responsibility, ensure intercultural & interfaith harmony and provide an opportunity to network with the youth around the country. It is a unique leadership development programme that brings together outstanding and focused young people from around the country to build critical leadership skills in an inclusive and global context. Moreover, the summit helps in creating cultural harmony, pool the young talent around the country, and evolve regional strategies to address issues of discrimination, unemployment, identity and extremism.

The Summit was inaugurated by playing the national anthem of Pakistan. The youth

shared their ideas and motivation for working towards cultural integration, interfaith harmony and development of the country. The discussion included aspects of leadership and development, social action, activism and drafting the resolution. The four day summit had sessions on development, role of youth in progress, women empowerment, role of media and a stage play. It also had a cultural evening with musicians from all regions of Pakistan, as well as a walk for peace.

The second day had various sessions on role of youth in development process, how youth can contribute to the society, women empowerment and role of media. The day began with the session of Ms. Salma Butt, Advisor to Government of Punjab who termed the youth engine of society as they have to start off. She urged the youth to take action and look forward, and said that they cannot achieve anything without bringing up ideas which are realistic.

The second session, women empowerment: Is it achievable in Pakistan, discussed the overall actions done for the empowerment of women. The chief guest for the session was Mr. Lars Nordrum, Deputy Head of Mission of Norwegian Royal Embassy while the panelists included Professor Farkhanda from Aurat Foundation, Ms. Shahida Kazmi from World Food Programme and OD expert Mrs. Rifat Shams from Human Resource Learning Centre.

Speaking on the occasion, Lars Nordrum compared the overall situation of women in Norway and Pakistan, and stated that women are serving as generals, parliamentarians and chief secretaries in his country and hoped that a similar number of women reach to these ladders in Pakistan. Professor Farkhanda shared her own experiences and said that the word



empowerment is not generalized but a contextual word. She said that the economic and political empowerment is very important and contributes to social empowerment. Ms. Shahida Kazmi gave a presentation and discussed various issues and challenges while dealing with empowerment issues. She stated it's tough to achieve but collectively with our efforts we can bring a change. She urged the youth to start with their home to see a difference because a real person thinks in a very different way.

Thereafter, Mrs. Rifat Shams shared her life story and conducted an activity where the participants drew an image of a woman farmer. She described the difficulty in making an image of a woman peasant who is in majority in the rural parts of the country.

Later on, a session was conducted on how youth can contribute to the society, which was taken by Mr. Naeem Mirza, Chief Operating Officer, Aurat Foundation. He asked the youth to bridge differences, create opportunities and work for harmony among themselves, which will help in the development and advancement of the country.

One of the sessions, changing trends in context of evolution of media was taken by prominent journalist Urooj Raza. She informed the participants of National Youth Summit that the media is only there to cover the story as it develops, and it is dependent on many factors. She urged them to make their own opinions after listening to all types of views and versions. The participants of the Summit also performed a play on the ethnic differences between communities in Pakistan. The play was a comedy, which delighted the guests and participants, and gave a message that while we are divided in provincial, linguistic and ethnic communities, the missing part of

Pakistanism is hurting our ideology.

Lastly, the participants of the summit discussed the social action projects for the summit, and outlined draft resolution for the National Youth Summit 2014.

The third day of the Summit brought a Walk for Peace, where the youth urged all ethnicities, communities and tribes in the country to promote peace in the society.

Later, Mr. Saeed Ul Hassan, Education Advisor at Oxfam GB took the session on Role of Youth in the Changing Context for the participants of the summit. He said that he has been seeing frustration and



A group photo of the participants of the National Youth Summit 2014 at Aiwan-e-Quaid

depression in the eyes of young people around him, and he feels disturbed to see this. He said that the youth should not leave hope, and said that the things change with passage of time. He asked youth to be patient and work selflessly for what they believe, and promote culture of acceptance amongst each other.

It also included a cultural and musical evening where musicians from different regions performed in various local languages, including Pashto, Punjabi, Seraiki, Sindhi and Kashmiri languages, while a local dance of Balochistan, called Attan, was also featured in the evening.

During the cultural and musical evening, Mr. Nori Ashida, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan was the guest of honor who said that

he really enjoys the culture and heritage of Pakistan. He also performed at the Summit and sang two songs in Urdu language, which was greatly appreciated by the youth and the guests. A visiting delegation of Asian African Rural Development Organization (AARDO) also arrived at the summit, bringing in delegates of various Asian and African countries to the National Youth Summit 2014.

The 2014 Summit concluded in Islamabad, wherein the youth from all over Pakistan demanded unity and debate on national issues in a serious manner.

During the summit, a number of speakers shared their opinions and perspectives with the youth delegates who urged them to take action and look forward, and said that they cannot achieve anything without bringing up ideas which are realistic. The speakers asked the youth to bridge differences, create opportunities and work for harmony among themselves, which will help in the development and advancement of the country.

On the last day, the participants of the summit discussed and devised plans for the social action projects on a number of themes including tree plantation, blood donation, creation of a cultural society in a private university, awareness and advocacy campaign in hospitals to deal with emergencies, etc. The participants also outlined draft resolution for the National Youth Summit 2014, which was extensively discussed and deliberated upon during the final session.

The participants formally agreed to the

resolution calling the government and other stakeholders in the words, "There is a dire need to unite the people under one umbrella in Pakistan, and thus there should be one platform for sports, arts and entertainment for every Pakistani. There should be social, cultural and educational programmes across the country, which should also be able to define our moral and ethical values. We also demand a debate on national issues on every aspect of our society."

The event ended with a brief address of CEO ACT International who asked the



Mr. Lars Nordrun Head of Mission Royal Norwegian Embassy addressing the session on women empowerment

youth to complete their social action projects in time, with enthusiasm and passion. He also thanked all the partners of the National Youth Summit 2014 including HEC, AJKRSP, Aurat Foundation, Commoner, Pakistan Observer, CDA and Valley Trackers.

### Social Action Projects

The Social Action Projects is a permanent feature of National Youth Summit which strives to inculcate activism in the young people from different parts of the country. It engages youth to perform small scale interventions in their communities which can enhance their exposure to work with different stakeholders. A number of such projects were devised during the National Youth Summit 2014.

# INITIATIVES

## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence is an international campaign that starts on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day. The campaign hopes to raise awareness about Gender-Based Violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international level.

ACT International took part in the global event by conducting awareness activities to promote action against Gender Based Violence. It engaged different segments of society to generate a debate and highlight the need to address the issues pertaining to Gender Based Violence. The theme for these activities under the programme was, "Let's End Gender Base Violence."



During the activity, three seminars were conducted in three union councils of Swabi, Mardan and Nowshera which are considered as one of the most vulnerable districts with respect to GBV. The seminars focused on gender based violence, addressing the core reasons behind it and a way forward to address the issue and progressively put an end to it. The speakers included members of academia , government line agencies, ex

UC Nazims, Tehsil Nazims, social media persons, lawyers and highlighted the issues related to prevention. A group of performers theater focusing different GBV The theater performers focused



workers, political workers, religious scholars, all of whom gender based violence and its were also hired to play a issues.

The theater performers focused particular district. For instance, the subject was women's right to education and its importance in Swabi. It also included the issue of domestic violence. Whereas, for district



Mardan, it focused Swara (compensatory marriage) and role of local jirga. It also included women's right to education and its importance. In Nowshera, the play focused on rights of people with disabilities, community response toward PWDs and issues being



faced by PWDs, and the role of step parents in the society. The participants took great interest in the theaters and appreciated

ACT International's contribution for the cause. A pledge was taken from all participants. The participants were led to the free wall area and requested to write messages regarding GBV. All the participants took great interest in free wall activity as well. ACT International also conducted speech competition among youth in 12 schools.

## EDUCATION & AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO ALLEVIATE MALNUTRITION AMONGST CHILD BEARING WOMEN & CHILDREN

Malnutrition is a pathological condition resulting from deficiency of one or more nutrients and has a wide range of clinical manifestations. The children are amongst the worst-affected groups of malnutrition. Approximately 800,000 children die in Pakistan every year and 35 per cent of these occur due to malnutrition. A recent survey supported by WFP in AJK revealed that out of nearly 17,000 pregnant or lactating women and more than 60,000 children who were examined, 38 per cent women and 21 per cent children were found malnourished. The infant mortality rate in AJK is 56/1000 live births. This led ACT International to initiate a focused campaign towards awareness & education for Maternal and Child Health with improved nutritional status at community level.

Keeping in view the current situation of malnutrition in AJK, ACT International planned to initiate the campaign for raising awareness and to educate community to alleviate malnutrition among child bearing women & children in catchment areas of selective BHUs of district Muzaffarabad. It primarily addresses underlying causes of the malnutrition through its interventions at community level by dissemination of information and by

adopting best practices

pertaining to malnutrition and hygiene habits to enhance the outcome of BHU and MNCH services.

Since, there is a need to improve the educational, communication and organizational efforts to compliment the existing services of health through BHUs, MNCH; ACT International has initiated the activity. The overall objective of the activity is to identify seven rural and urban communities in catchment area of seven BHUs of district Muzaffarabad and then



transform community support system to reduce malnutrition among child bearing women & children in seven selective BHUs by educating and raising awareness through campaign. Its specific objectives include promoting community-led support system to improve local practices of food intake and basic hygiene to reduce infectious diseases among target community, educating communities about high supplement foods and options of indigenous nutritious food to reduce malnutrition and engaging media, educational institutions, local CSOs/CBOs and local community influential to promote improved food intake and adopt best practices of hygiene.

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2014

ACT International believes in sustainable initiatives for environment protection and improvement. The organization regards advocacy on environment protection as its prime responsibility. In year 2013, ACT in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders organized a spectacular festival on the subject of environment titled 4S Festival with a theme, "Save Environment, Save Planet, Save Life, Save Future," at the capital city of AJK, i.e. Muzaffarabad.

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on June 5 to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 on the day that United Nations Conference on the Human Environment began. The First World Environment Day was celebrated in 1973. Since then, it is commemorated every year worldwide.



Mr Aftab Qayyum, Manager Programmes ACT International speaking at a seminar on World Environment Day 2014

To achieve overarching objective of a clean and green environment and in continuation with environment related activities, ACT organized a series of events in collaboration with Environment Protection Agency AJK targeting five district headquarters of Azad Jammu & Kashmir on June 5, 2014. The theme of World Environment Day was "Raise your Voice, Not the Sea Level" globally. However, in consultation with Environment Protection Agency AJK, more focus was given to utilization of plastic bags which are hazardous to environment and human health. Therefore a campaign was designed on eradication of plastic bags from markets and households, as it is one the major regional environmental challenge.



Participants holding banner and placards during a walk on World Environment Day 2014 in Muzaffarabad

In this regard, awareness raising and advocacy walks were organized at all district headquarters of AJK which initiated simultaneously. People from all walks of life participated in the walks, and the Minister for Environment, AJK led the walk in Muzaffarabad, AJK. It also included representatives and members of trade unions, members of Lawyers Environment Forum, members of Journalist Environment Forum, children from green clubs, youth from AJK University, Scouts of public schools, representatives from department of health and education as well as from civil society organizations

A symposium was also organized on elimination of hazardous plastic bags. The event was graced by Minister for Environment, Additional Chief Secretary Development/Secretary Environment, Director General Environment, Chairman Lawyers Forum, Chairman Trade

Union and Chairman Journalist Forum. A comprehensive presentation was given on current environmental issues of AJK, hazards of plastic bags and use of alternate degradable material. It was highlighted in the seminar that all development projects should be environment sensitive and that no development should be made at the cost of environmental degradation which ultimately puts health and lives of people at risk. The participants also laid stress over mutual cooperation and joint efforts in order to save environment and life on earth. To acknowledge and encourage efforts for environment protection, souvenirs were given to organizations and individuals for their valuable contribution to protect environment.

At the end of symposium, participants visited stalls carrying alternate degradable material for utilization instead of plastic bags and reading material related to environment protection. A seminar on environment protection was also arranged during the event. In the seminar, the environmental challenges posed to AJK were comprehensively highlighted and shared with the participants. The hazardous effects of plastic bags were revealed to participants and alternate degradable bags were introduced by TDPA, Symphony Environment and

#### Advocacy, Awareness Raising & Sensitization

- ↳ 1270 people sensitized and involved in advocacy walks & seminars on environment protection
- ↳ 5000 leaflets / pamphlets carrying messages related to environment protection and hazards of plastic bags distributed to individuals / households / shops to make them aware of environmental issues
- ↳ 6270 people sensitized and aware on environmental issues and its protection.

#### Commitments

- ↳ Trade Unions committed to utilize degradable bags during supply of all commodities
- ↳ Government ministries /line departments committed to incorporate environment friendly policies in all development endeavours
- ↳ Journalist & Lawyers forums committed to establish joint monitoring unit to eliminate all factors which harm environment

#### Collaboration

- ↳ 4 Local organizations involved to initiate environment friendly/protection initiatives
- ↳ Mutual collaboration with all stakeholders opened new avenues for efforts related to environment protection

Business Dynamics, a private limited company. All stakeholders showed mutual consensus over utilization of environment friendly product introduced during the event. During the occasion, the officials from government line

departments committed that during planning of any kind of development work, compliance with environment protection laws would be ensured and no such initiatives would be taken which has negative impact on the environment.

## THE ADVOCACY CHANNEL-TAC

Advocacy is one of the major developmental needs of any society, especially the developing world. In Pakistan, the society, government and communities face a number of challenges with perspective of women, children, youth and marginalized groups including disabled, minorities, HIV affectees, violence victims, poor and various other marginalized groups. While there are a number of advocacy focused organizations working in Pakistan, these entities are usually subject-focused and rely on advocating for their thematic areas alone.

This situation persuaded ACT International to launch an advocacy focused unit, considering its major focus on advocacy efforts, to



Representatives of ACT International advocating the need to resolve youth issues in Pakistan on PTV World

### THE DEVELOPMENTALIST

As part of ACT International's "The Advocacy Channel", it has launched an organizational newsletter, titled "The Developmentalist," to serve as the major tool for advocacy, while reaching the parliamentarians, policy-makers, academicians, donors and development actors. It is designed to contribute in form of, and shall include but not remain limited to, research reports, generated evidence, opportunities, forums, networks, various interventions and impact or outcomes of various interventions. The Developmentalist also serves as a key resource for the overall development sector to share the learning, challenge and activities

THE  
*Developmentalist*

of various interventions to keep a track record, as well as to avoid duplication of efforts, adding accountability to the programmes and activities of the civil society. It also serves as an intellectual resource for activists, practitioners and

professionals across the field.

The major focus of "The Developmentalist" is to be an entity for combined advocacy activities of multiple development actors, including those in the unrepresented and rural areas. Further, it is an endeavor to integrate the knowledge, learning and wisdom of multiple development actors, which can contribute to better development efforts. Furthermore, it is an avenue which shares the successful endeavors of development actors for replication in other areas, while sharing of any advices related to theories and their implementation in different contexts.

It is an entity with affiliation to all

development actors, to contribute positively towards the development, through integrated approach.

advocate and persuade, mobilize and motivate the community, stakeholders, development actors, donors and policy-makers through using multiple forums and platforms to focus on the urgent challenges in the country.

TAC is the platform to utilize multiple tools of advocacy including evidence generation, upstream engagement, awareness raising, communications and media work, communications for behavior change, developing partnerships, coalitions and alliances, lobbying and negotiating, campaigning, public relations, research, publications, work with children and young people, social mobilization and arranging events and conferences, etc.

The purpose of this unit is to exclusively focus on advocacy related activities, utilizing tools and strategies already in place and the newer approaches, to deal with the overall developmental challenges. Overall, TAC shall ensure effective advocacy strategies which aim to affect change at various levels, including increasing community awareness of the issues, influencing law and policy making and improving the government response to a number of issues. It shall, within itself, contain some of the sub-units or focused activities, to assist the organization in managing the overall advocacy related activities. These include:



PTV World conducted a special programme, "Music for Peace" during the National Youth Summit 2014

**Evidence Generation**

**Upstream Engagement**

**Awareness Raising**

**Communications and Media work**

**Developing Partnerships, Coalitions and Alliances**

**Campaigning, Lobbying and Negotiating**

**Research & Publications**

**Social Mobilization**

**Arranging Events and Conferences**

**The Developmentalist**



# INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

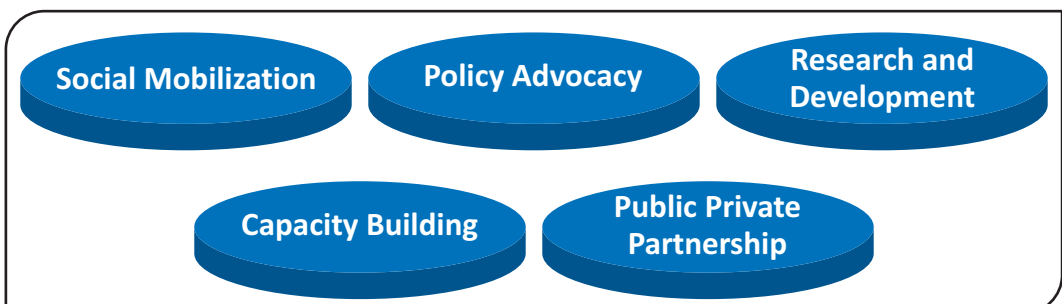
ACT International has strived for excellence in its programmes throughout its existence, and similarly it has put extensive efforts to enhance the institutional capacity with time. For this purpose, a number of efforts were made by the management of the organization. The organization has conducted its general and board meetings as per its memorandum. Similarly, it has continuously put efforts to upgrade and update the systems and policies, as well as bring in new systems and policies as per the need. The organization has also developed several partnerships for achievement of its vision and mission.

## **PARTNERS & LINKAGES:**

Since its inception, the organization has partnered with a number of local, regional, national and international organizations, donors and development actors to achieve the organizational vision, mission and goals through its devised model of engagement. ACT International has linkages with the following major networks:

- **BISP**, or Benazir Income Support Programme is a programme for creating a social safety net by the government of Pakistan, supported by the World Bank ;
- **FDMA**, FATA Disaster Management Authority is the premiere government body in the tribal regions of Pakistan for relief, rehabilitation and recovery in disasters.
- **Environment Protection Agency**, is the key environmental body in the region of Azad Jammu & Kashmir;
- **Social Welfare Department**, is the government's entity for social welfare.
- **Health Department**, refers to the departments of health in different regions of the country.
- **Education Department**, refers to the departments of education in different regions of the country.

## **Institutional Strengths**



## INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

A number of International organizations conducted evaluation of ACT International during 2014. The overall result of these evaluations depicted strong internal control, good governance, strong financial management and result based team performance of the organization. One of the evaluations is being shared below:



Greenacre Associates is the leading Global Consultancy on NGO regulation, policy, capacity building and due diligence.

“Although ACT is a new organisation, it has experienced staff. There is admirable transparency about projects, plans and targets. Its projects, impact, policies and procedures are of a level more normally expected of a mature and established organisation. The Programme Development Policy, Financial Policy, Procurement Policy, HR Policy and Child Protection Policy are all worthy of specific note. There were numerous examples of best practice relating to the development and implementation of projects, in particular the BISP project.”

## SYSTEMS & POLICIES

Finance Policy

HR Policy

Child Protection Policy

Security policy

Gender policy

Procurement Policy

Grievance policy

Management Information System

Sidat Hyder Financial System

## RE-INFORCEMENT OF M&E UNIT

As per the current needs of monitoring and evaluation in any development focused organization, ACT International re-inforced its M&E unit at its head office. ACT International programme tracks viz. Social Mobilization, Transformational, Development, Education and Advocacy through various approaches to programming. LEAP (Learning through Evaluation, Accountability and Planning) builds on current knowledge and practices to bring about consistency in approaches to these key programming functions. One of the emphasis in the framework is the establishment of well-functioning M & E systems. The M & E system is based on the International LEAP framework. The M & E guide puts emphasis on monitoring progress towards desired results including impact while building up on the concept of Results Based Management. The guide is based on an assessment of existing M & E process in ACT International, programme management requirements and review of contemporary writings on M & E. In line with the LEAP framework, the overall objective of the M & E system is to improve decision making,

programme quality and accountability to stakeholders.

M & E system is a continuous process that needs to be modified as new projects are designed. The data gathered through the system attempts to provide information on progress towards impact/sustainability, process and context.

The system also allows

for physical verification of reported results through visits and document reviews. The monitoring component of the framework builds up on the concept of monitoring for impact.

#### Guiding Principles of the M & E system

- ⊙ Alignment with ACT International's Standards and Policies (policies and standards in LEAP and other Partnership Office requirements)
- ⊙ Promote intentional learning
- ⊙ Participation of all stakeholders
- ⊙ Use simple and practical tools that staff and communities can easily understand
- ⊙ Connected to overall ACT International strategy
- ⊙ Use of indicators and making efforts in improving the performance measurement systems and developing baselines
- ⊙ Disaggregated information (gender, age, socio economic groups etc.)

### ESTABLISHED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

As per the need of the organization in particular and the development sector in general, ACT International established a Research and Development Unit within the organization to concentrate on focused activities on the

subject. The overall idea behind the concept of the unit is to support and compliment the current programmes of ACT International and also to provide services to other social sector enterprises in the short run and in the coming years to extend the scope of service to corporate sector especially in the area of corporate social responsibility. The unit is expected to

build on the current expertise and provide services to social sector organizations.

The overall objective is to provide the organization and external stakeholders with the most effective and actionable solutions to the problems. The idea stands on the belief that being a social sector organization itself, it is able to bring a better understanding to the dynamics of social sector. This will lead to an improved assessment of stakeholder's needs and it will help to provide the best possible solution to various needs of the development and corporate sectors of the country.

In the initial phase, the primary focus of the unit remains on the social sector organizations. However, in the long term, the corporate sector will also be explored with a special focus on the social responsibility projects.

#### Activities:

- ⊙ Baseline Surveys
- ⊙ Programme Development
- ⊙ Third Party M&E
- ⊙ Capacity Assessment
- ⊙ Pre and Post Evaluations
- ⊙ Efficacy studies

# GOVERNANCE

ACT International has always attached importance to accountability, transparency and good governance in the organization. The organization has a proactive general body and board of directors along with independent committees of the board to deal with the organizational governance matters. Overall, the general body is designated to appoint chairperson, elect members of the board, approve annual budgets and



A group photograph of the members of General Body at the Annual General Meeting in Islamabad



The Members of the Board review the performance and provide guidance in the BoD meeting

provide strategic guidelines to the board. Thereby, the board is responsible to provide in-depth strategic guidelines to the management for smooth operations and to achieve the vision, mission and the goal of the organization. The head-office of ACT International is in Islamabad; and it has regional offices in the provincial headquarters as well as in AJK. Currently, the organization has three regional offices i.e. Muzaffarabad,

AJK, Mardan, KP and Benazirabad, Sindh. ACT International has the following governing bodies:

## General Body

It is a 25-member body which reviews the performance of ACT International, elects the members of the Board of Governors, approves the Annual Reports and appoints the auditors.

## Board of Director

The 8-member Board provides strategic guidance and works as an instrument for good governance. It is elected every third year from among the members of the General Body.

## Committees

The organization has several committees from amongst the members of the Board, to oversee and manage any issue and to ensure transparency.

# AUDIT REPORT



**Zia Masood Kiani & Co.**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the annexed balance sheet of the **AIMING CHANGE FOR TOMORROW (ACT) INTERNATIONAL** ("the Society"), and the related income and expenditure account together with the notes forming part thereof (here-in-after referred to as the financial statements for the year then ended).

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

It is the responsibility of the management to establish and maintain a system of internal control, and prepare and present the financial statements in conformity with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting policies used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### *Opinion*

In our opinion the financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the Society as at 30 June 2014 and of its surplus for the year then ended in accordance with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD

Date: 17/11/14

*Zia Masood Kiani & Co.*  
**ZIA MASOOD KIANI & CO.,**  
Chartered Accountants

**Engagement Partner**  
ZIA ULLAH - FCA


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legally independent accounting firms

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**AIMING CHANGE FOR TOMORROW (ACT) INTERNATIONAL****BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2014**

	Note	2014 Rupees	2013 Rupees
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant & equipment			
Owned assets		1,414,006	1,329,766
Donated assets		976,630	715,787
	4	2,390,636	2,045,553
Intangible assets	5	260,000	90,000
Security deposits		138,500	-
		<u>2,789,136</u>	<u>2,135,553</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Advances, deposits, prepayments & other receivables	6	183,421	893,000
Cash and bank balances	7	5,911,945	12,077,015
		6,095,366	12,970,015
		<u>8,884,502</u>	<u>15,105,568</u>
<b>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>			
Restricted funds	8	2,441,497	13,899,731
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	9	1,527,210	(527,618)
		3,968,707	13,372,113
<b>Deferred income</b>	10	976,630	715,787
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accrued and other payables	11	3,939,165	1,017,668
Due to related parties		-	-
		3,939,165	1,017,668
<b>Contingencies and Commitments</b>	12	-	-
		<u>8,884,502</u>	<u>15,105,568</u>

The annexed notes from 1 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

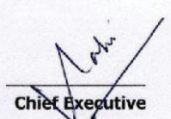
  
Chief Executive

  
Director

**AIMING CHANGE FOR TOMORROW (ACT) INTERNATIONAL**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

	<i>Note</i>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
		Rupees	Rupees
<b>Income</b>			
Income recognized	13	65,993,539	30,883,860
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Project cost	14	69,482,688	14,208,076
Administration cost	15	5,914,257	3,129,184
		<u>75,396,945</u>	<u>17,337,260</u>
<b>Net surplus / (Deficit) for the year</b>		(9,403,406)	13,546,600
<b>Transferred (to) / from restricted funds</b>		<u>11,458,234</u>	<u>(13,899,731)</u>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the year</b>		2,054,828	(353,131)

*The annexed notes from 1 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.*

  
 Chief Executive

  
 Director

# OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS









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