

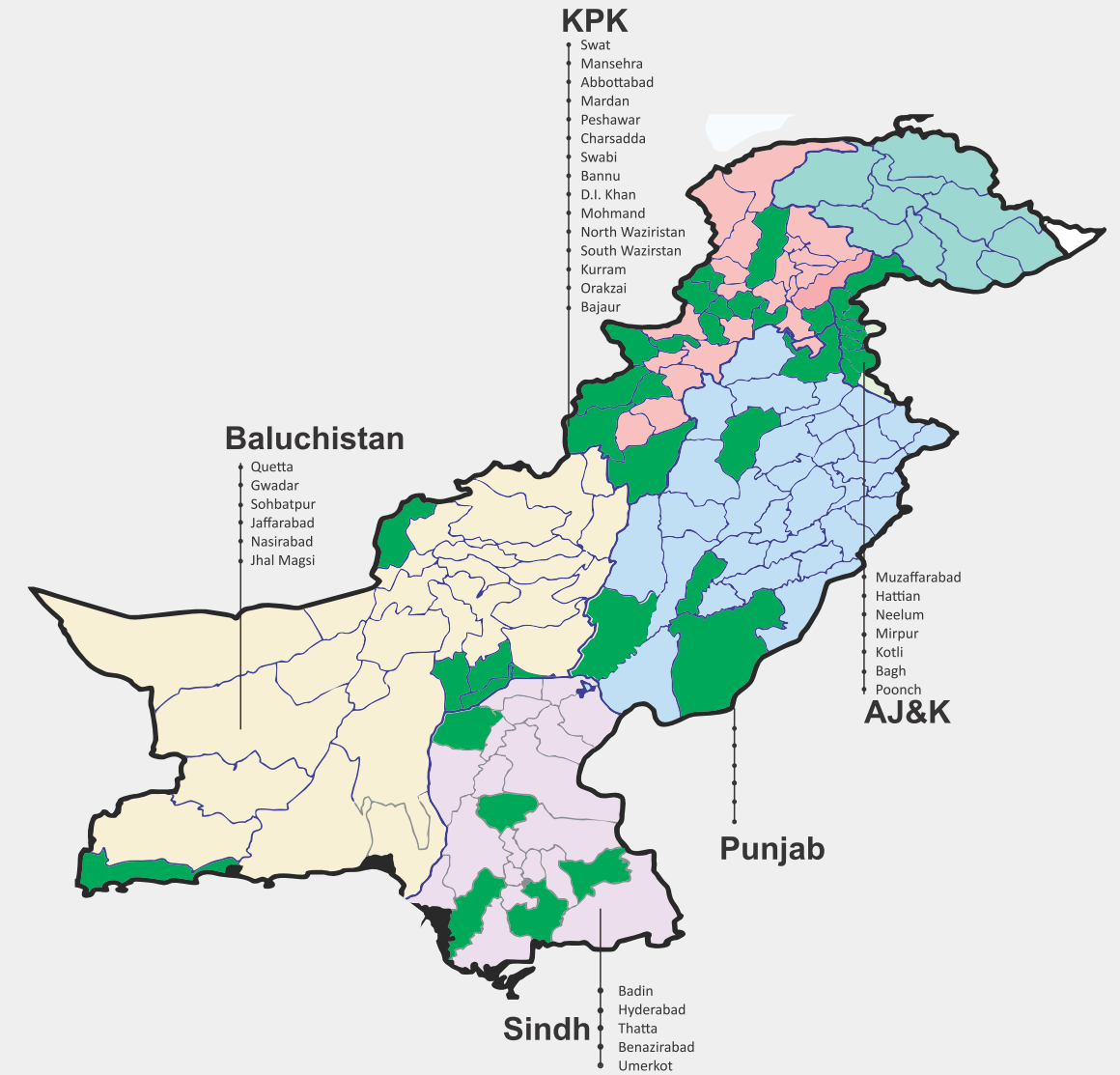


AIMING
CHANGE FOR
TOMORROW



Annual Report

2022



AIMING
CHANGE FOR
TOMORROW

Aiming Change For Tomorrow

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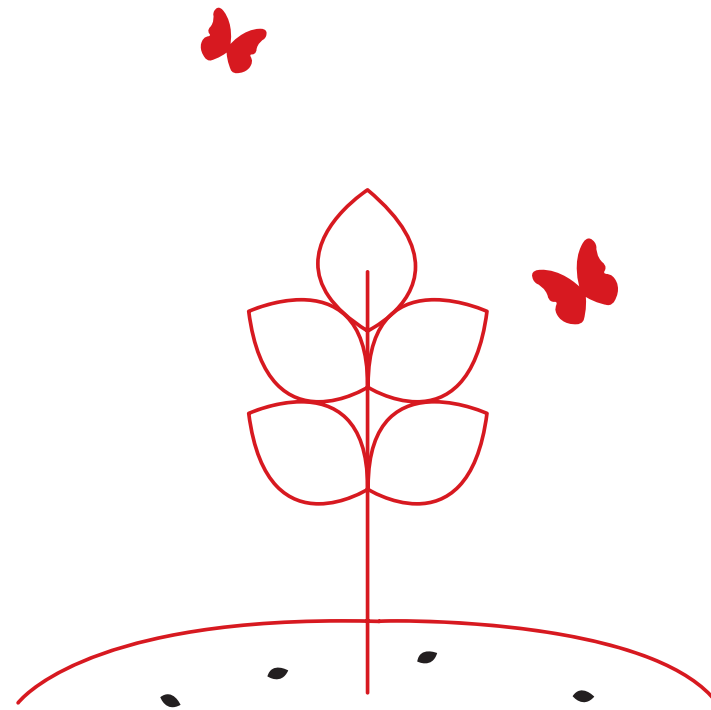
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Every act of kindness is charity

Sahih Al Bukhari: 6021



CEO Message

In 2022, ACT continued its unwavering commitment to the promotion of Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) as an integral part of our collaboration with UNFPA. I am proud to report the significant progress we have achieved in translating this program into action, in close cooperation with both federal and local governments in Pakistan. Notably, due to ACT's dedicated efforts, the Government of Pakistan officially recognized LSBE as a vital component of the nation's education system, subsequently incorporating it into the National Curriculum of Pakistan.



Throughout 2022, ACT organized a series of events aimed at training a substantial cohort of master teachers in LSBE, with the ultimate objective of making this training program accessible to a broader audience across Pakistan. Presently, the program is actively running in several regions, including AJK, KP, GB, ICT, and South Punjab, among others. I am pleased to share that our team successfully trained 760 elementary school teachers, 120 young student council members, 96 transgender individuals, and over 100 young scouts in LSBE. These comprehensive training sessions covered critical topics, including LSBE values, reproductive health rights (RHR), and leadership skills, empowering participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions concerning their safety, health, and overall well-being.

As part of our ongoing commitment to children's education, we introduced the "1234" helpline in 2022. This resource serves as a lifeline for children seeking information and support to facilitate the seamless resumption of their education.

In the face of pressing flood crises, ACT prioritized its response efforts in 2022. Through our partnership with UNFPA, we established Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces (WGFS) within a community-owned facility, thoughtfully renovated and equipped by ACT. These spaces serve as vital platforms for empowering women and girls. Additionally, our Medical Health Units (MHU) played a crucial role in providing essential medical care to flood victims in District Rajanpur, South Punjab, further

underscoring our commitment to humanitarian assistance.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated team, partners, and supporters who have made these achievements possible. We remain steadfast in our mission to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and communities in Pakistan, and we look forward to continued collaboration and progress in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



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About Us

ACT International established on 8th March 2012 as a registered non-profit entity under the Societies Registration Act 1860. It is certified from PCP, member of CHS, SUN Alliance, Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), Men Engagement, and CRM having its areas of operation in all Provinces and Regions (AJ&K, GB) of Pakistan.



1

Vision

A tomorrow where everyone has opportunities to prosper.

2

Mission

Empower communities to progress and be diversely resilient through promotion of peoples' engagement, capacity building and partnership focusing on children, youth and women.

3

Values

- ▶ Rights based Approach
- ▶ Empowerment.
- ▶ Non discrimination.
- ▶ Transparency.
- ▶ Collaboration & Partnerships.
- ▶ Innovations.
- ▶ Gender sensitivity.

Organizational Structure

ACT has a democratic, transparent and participatory governance structure, which best assures an independent organization that is efficiently and effectively managed on scientific lines. The Memorandum of Association recommends a three-tier governance structure, comprising a 25-member General Body, a Board of Governors comprising of 8 members and senior management team headed by the CEO. Significant features of the governance structure are its system of checks and balances and the leading role given to Partners' Networks and Staff of the organization.

General Body

It is a 25-member body which reviews the performance of the ACT, elects the members of the board of directors, approves the annual reports and appoints the auditors.

Board of Directors

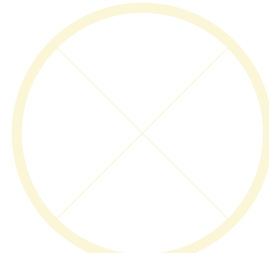
The organization manage its strategic affairs by the appointing the board of directors. The BOD our see the management of the organization by insuring the execution of policies and procedures, strategic direction, transparency and accountability. It also further supported by constitution of committees for different level which includes; program development committee, internal audit committee and general body membership review committee. The current code of governance profile is given below.



Mr. Saeed ul Hassan
Chairman Board of Directors



Mr. Mubashir Nabi
Founder President



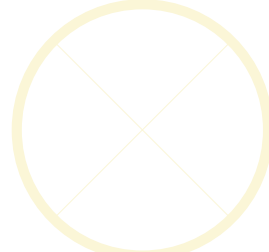
Babar Aziz
Member



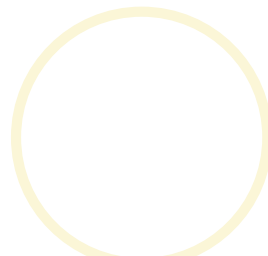
Ms. Farzana Yaqoob
Member



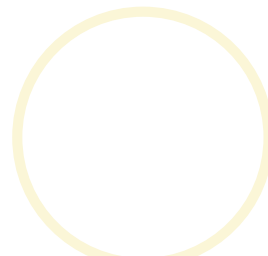
Dr. Farkhanda Aurengezeb
Member



Dr. Bushra Shams
Member



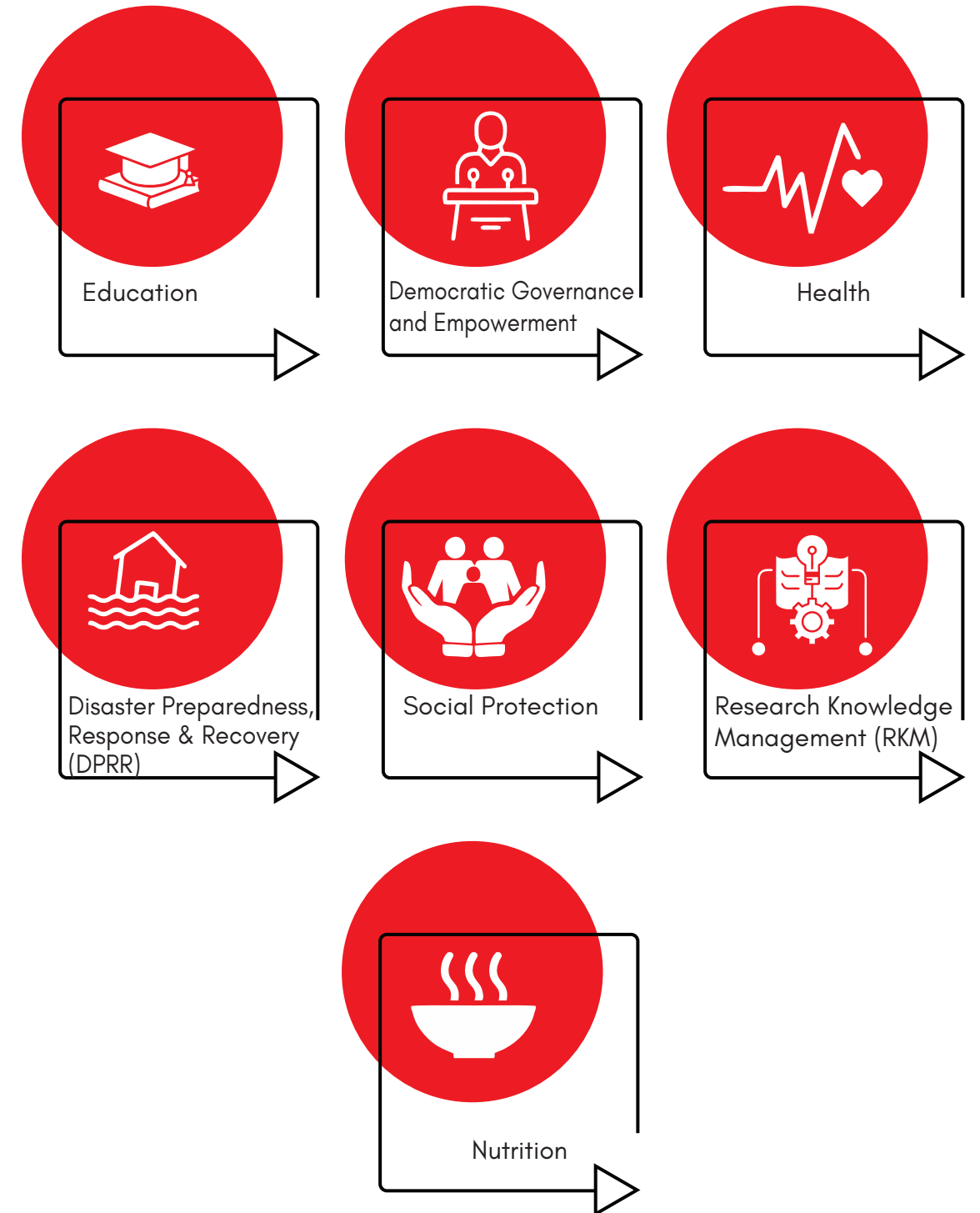
Muhammad Javed Malik
Member



Dr. Zainab Hafeez
Member

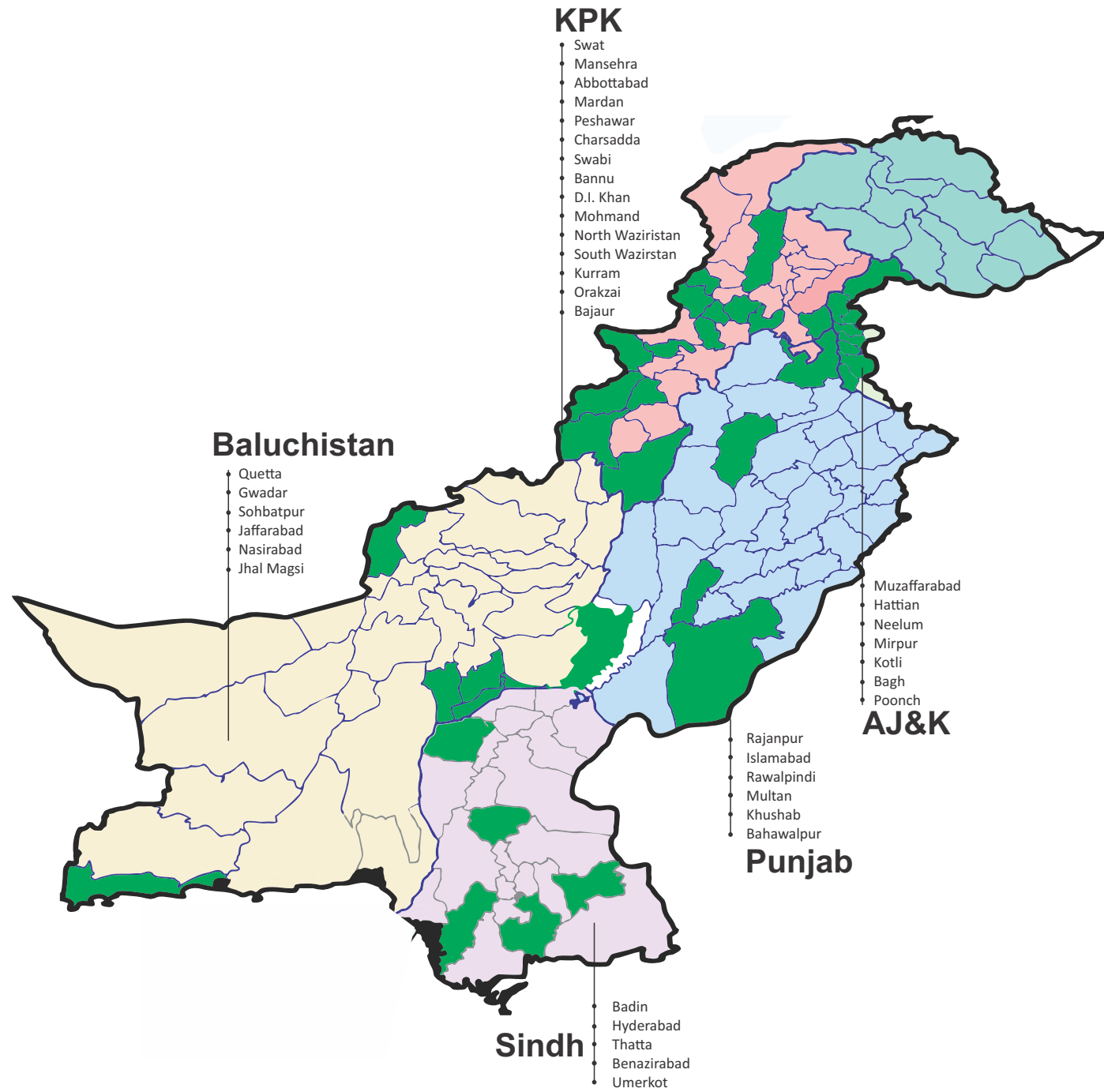
Our Approach

The ACT has always strived to pioneer the development approaches while applying them in various outreach areas and gaining hands-on experience of the methodology to ascertain their correctness and applicability. It structured the organization's thematic areas and functional approach from the inception stage. The initial thematic areas focused on Social Protection, Education, Health and Nutrition, Environment, Livelihood, and Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery (DPRR) and Research & Knowledge Management (RKM). The ACT has always taken youth and gender as cross-cutting themes in all activities. The critical working approach involved the social mobilization of communities across the country. With the learning in field, ACT strategically changed the thematic field through restoring its efforts for ensuring sustainable development.

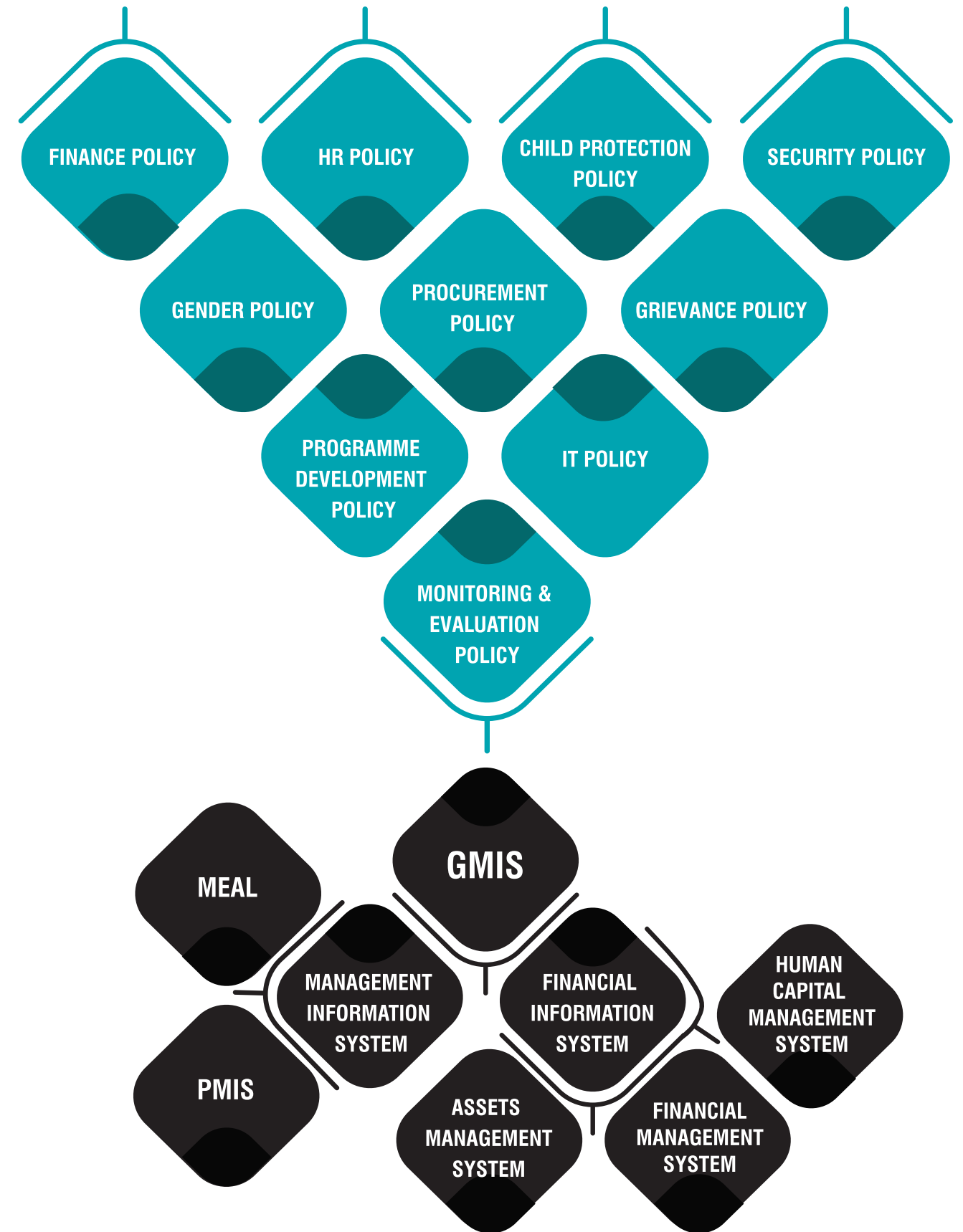




Geographic Outreach



Policies & Systems



Reflecting on Programmatic Accomplishments in 2022

“Strengthening Life Skill Based Education Initiatives in Pakistan by enhancing national and sub-national capacity to incorporate rights and needs of youth in their policies, program and institutional mechanisms”

Collaboration with Pakistan Boy Scouts Association (PBSA) for engaging youth in LSBE promotion

Scouting in Pakistan has a rich history, tracing its origins back to the British Indian branch of The Scout Association. It was established with a core mission of fostering spiritual development and instilling values that shape individuals into well-disciplined, productive, and responsible citizens.

Today, the Pakistan Boy Scouts Association (PBSA) remains committed to its vision of mobilizing one million youth volunteers to assist during times of emergencies. In 2021, PBSA, in collaboration with UNFPA and ACT, undertook a tireless endeavor to engage with national-level policymakers from federal and provincial governments. Their goal was to advocate for the inclusion of Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) in the National Curriculum, a significant achievement in itself. Simultaneously, UNFPA and ACT devoted substantial efforts to nurture a dedicated group of trainers specialized in Reproductive Health and Rights (RHR). In the year 2022, ACT International extended its support to the Pakistan Boy Scouts Association (PBSA). Following the development and approval of PBSA's LSBE-Based curriculum, ACT International embarked on a mission to empower young volunteers and boy scouts with the knowledge and skills needed to serve as master trainers. Through a cascade training model, these master trainers, in turn, would go on to educate and empower young boy scouts across the nation.



Signing of LoU between ACT, UNFPA & PBSA

Leveraging steadfast support from organizations such as UNFPA and a network of national and international agencies, the Government of Pakistan has embraced the vital role of Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) for children and adolescents. This recognition aligns with Pakistan's commitment to international agreements like the Convention on the Rights of Children, highlighting the importance of LSBE for school-aged youths. As a testament to this commitment, LSBE has been formally integrated into pivotal National Policies, including Pakistan's Youth Policy and National Education Policy. In this context, UNFPA, in partnership with ACT, is poised to develop a standalone LSBE curriculum at the federal level, pending approval by the National Curriculum Council. A Letter of Understanding (LoU) has been signed among ACT, UNFPA, and the Pakistan Boy Scouts Association (PBSA), forging a collaborative path to promote youth development and raise awareness of Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) among Pakistan's young population. This concerted effort underscores the dedication to empower youth with essential life skills, fostering personal growth and contributing to societal progress.

Consultative Workshop for review and Development of PBSA curriculum on LSBE

The draft curriculum for the standalone Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) component has been meticulously developed to empower young individuals, specifically Boy Scouts, with the necessary skills to make informed and responsible decisions concerning their health, safety, and overall well-being. To ensure the refinement and effectiveness of this curriculum, a consultative workshop was diligently organized. The primary objective of the workshop was to solicit expert insights on the draft curriculum and to seamlessly integrate their valuable suggestions into the final version, tailored for scouts. In attendance were distinguished educationists, PBSA officials, particularly from the training department, representatives from the Ministry of Education, and LSBE experts. Additionally, a representative from UNFPA participated and shared invaluable perspectives. The event was officially inaugurated by Mr. Mubashir Banoori, CEO of ACT, who presented an overview of the project and provided insights into UNFPA and ACT's collaborative efforts in advancing LSBE promotion in Pakistan. The draft curriculum was comprehensively presented by Mr. Khubaib Kayani to the assembly of LSBE experts and professionals, all of whom engaged actively in a thorough review process, offering their constructive inputs and suggestions to enhance the curriculum's contextual relevance and meaningfulness.



Training of Trainers (ToT) for Scouts on LSBE

Following the development and official approval of the Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) curriculum for Boy Scouts, ACT took proactive steps by organizing a one-day Training of Trainers (TOT) program designed specifically for the scouts. The primary objective of this TOT initiative was to equip the scouts with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively implement the new LSBE concepts. During the LSBE orientation training, scouts underwent an in-depth exploration of the LSBE framework, gaining comprehensive insights into its composition and the essential requirements for its successful implementation. They developed a heightened awareness of the significance of LSBE within the evolving contexts and learned the protocols essential for fostering a thorough understanding of this vital educational approach. The training program comprised three informative sessions, centered on themes such as the "Importance of LSBE in Quality Education" and "Orientation on Human Rights & Protection from Violence and Abuse." This strategic investment aims to produce a cadre of master trainers who will, in turn, cascade their knowledge to young volunteers and fellow scouts, thus expanding the reach and impact of LSBE through an efficient training model.



Collaboration with Pakistan Boy Scouts Association and United Nations Population Fund for Engaging Youth on LSBE on World Youth Skills Day

World Youth Skills Day, observed annually on July 15, serves as a significant occasion to recognize the paramount importance of equipping young individuals with the skills necessary for meaningful employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship. This day provides a unique platform for policymakers, employers,

development partners and vocational and educational programs to engage in constructive dialogue with young people, addressing the essential skills required as the world embarks on a journey toward sustainable development. The primary objective of World Youth Skills Day is to illuminate the critical role these skills play in shaping the future of youth employment and entrepreneurship. In addition to imparting practical skills, the day also encourages young individuals to explore and harness their inherent potential. Esteemed guests, including Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on SDGs Ms. Shaza Fatima, Director of the National Curriculum Council of Pakistan Dr. Mariam Chughtai, International Program Coordinator of UNFPA Mr. Shrutidhar Tripathi, Director General of Federal Government Educational Institutions (FGEI) Major General Muhammad Asghar Khan, and Chairman of the Center of Excellence at Allama Iqbal University Mr. Rafique Tahir, delivered inspiring speeches and keynotes, providing valuable motivation and insights to young scouts. Moreover, the event offered a unique opportunity for young scouts to interact with accomplished professionals from various fields, facilitating invaluable learning and networking experiences.



Cascade Training for Young Scouts on Life Skills-Based Education

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) to young scouts, ACT conducted two Cascade sessions at Islamabad Model College for Girls F-6/2 on October 29, 2022, where 40 scouts received comprehensive training. The overarching aim of this training initiative was to equip the scouts with the knowledge and skills necessary for the effective implementation of the new concepts associated with Life Skills. During these LSBE orientation sessions, scouts were immersed in a deep exploration of the LSBE framework, gaining profound insights into its composition and the essential requirements for its successful implementation. This training provided them with a heightened awareness of the significance of LSBE within the context of ever-evolving situations, along with clear procedures to ensure its effective understanding and application.

Consultative workshop for review and development of draft curriculum on Life Skills Based Education

In 2018, Pakistan recognized the paramount importance of integrating Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) into primary and secondary level curricula at both federal and provincial levels. The National Curriculum Council (NCC) embarked on the vital task of mainstreaming LSBE within primary and secondary school curricula through the National Curriculum. The provision of LSBE is now an integral part of Pakistan's National Education Policy and National Youth Policy. Within this context, the concept of an LSBE standalone curriculum for grades I to VIII emerged as a crucial initiative. The development of this draft curriculum for the LSBE standalone component has been a collaborative effort, engaging the expertise of the National Curriculum Council and experts from both within and outside the Federal Ministry of Education & Professional Training.





To ensure the curriculum's effectiveness and alignment with educational goals, a consultative workshop was thoughtfully organized to gather input and insights from experts, particularly from the NCC. This workshop aimed to garner expert opinions specifically about the development of an LSBE-focused curriculum, incorporate feedback provided by these esteemed experts, and subsequently proceed with the creation of textbooks tailored for grades I to VIII, with the active involvement of relevant stakeholders.

The workshop witnessed the participation of various institutions, including the Private Schools Association, NCC experts, representatives from the Federal Ministry of Education, and educators from institutions such as the Federal College of Education and Army Public School. Additionally, representatives from UNFPA and other non-governmental organizations engaged in education and LSBE also actively participated, contributing their perspectives and insights.

The proceedings of the event were formally initiated by Mr. Sohail bin Aziz, Assistant Education Advisor at NCC, who underscored the significance of LSBE in daily life. He also highlighted NCC's past achievements in successfully integrating LSBE skills into the National Curriculum, setting the stage for further advancements in this crucial domain.

Adoption and translation of supplementary resources into regional languages (Hindko, Pashto, Saraiki, Khuwar, Shina)

"We Are Safe" is an initiative dedicated to safeguarding children from the everyday dangers they encounter. To effectively shield children from the perils of various modern-day challenges, it is imperative that we possess a thorough awareness of these hazards. While the roles of parents, guardians, and educators are undeniably crucial in this endeavor, equally vital is the empowerment of children through awareness and education regarding these potential dangers and how to navigate them safely.

In order to disseminate Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) materials at the grassroots level, fostering enlightenment within communities and among children, we have taken the initiative to translate and adapt the previously developed and approved supplementary LSBE material, known as "We Are Safe," into three regional languages: Hindko, Pushto, and Saraiki. This translation effort is driven by the recognition that a child's comprehension is greatly enhanced when they are taught in their native language, thus amplifying the overall impact of the translated material.

The National Curriculum Council, in collaboration with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, spearheads the publication of these translated guides for children as part of the LSBE program, a collaborative effort involving UNFPA and ACT. This endeavor represents a collective commitment to ensuring the safety, awareness, and well-being of our young learners across diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.



Collaboration with Chairman of CII to validate the Islamic reference material on LSBE

The ACT and UNFPA team recently had the privilege of meeting with the Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) to present an overview of the Islamic content integrated into Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE). We are pleased to share that the chairman not only approved the content but also expressed his appreciation for the dedicated efforts made by ACT and UNFPA in this important endeavor.

With the esteemed approval from the Chairman of CII, this Islamic component of LSBE has been seamlessly incorporated into the existing teacher training manual for LSBE. This manual serves as a valuable resource for the capacity building of teachers who are responsible for imparting LSBE as an integrated subject. To further facilitate understanding and engagement, informative brochures and calendars have been meticulously designed, focusing on the Islamic perspective of LSBE.

This specialized material has been distributed among all stakeholders, including federal and provincial education departments, and has been actively utilized in various training sessions and events related to LSBE and Reproductive Health and Rights (RHR). It is worth noting that this material holds substantial potential to benefit not only in-school and out-of-school children but also parents and educators, providing essential education and insights on the significance of LSBE within the framework of Islamic values and principles. This collaborative effort underscores our commitment to fostering holistic education and awareness among diverse audiences.

Development of content on LSBE reference supplement material based on quranic verses, hadith and Sunnah

To imbue Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) with a meaningful Islamic context, it is crucial to establish a strong connection with the teachings of the Holy Quran, Hadith, and Sunnah, emphasizing its alignment with Islamic principles. This approach encourages learners to view LSBE as not only an educational endeavor but also a religious obligation. To facilitate this, we have published pamphlets and diaries that expound on the Islamic perspective of LSBE, accompanied by references to relevant Quranic verses and Hadith. These informative materials will be distributed among all stakeholders, including federal and provincial education departments, and will serve as valuable resources in LSBE and Reproductive Health and Rights (RHR) training sessions and events. They are designed to benefit both in-school and out-of-school children, as well as provide essential guidance for parents and educators, enhancing their understanding of LSBE within the framework of Islamic values and beliefs.

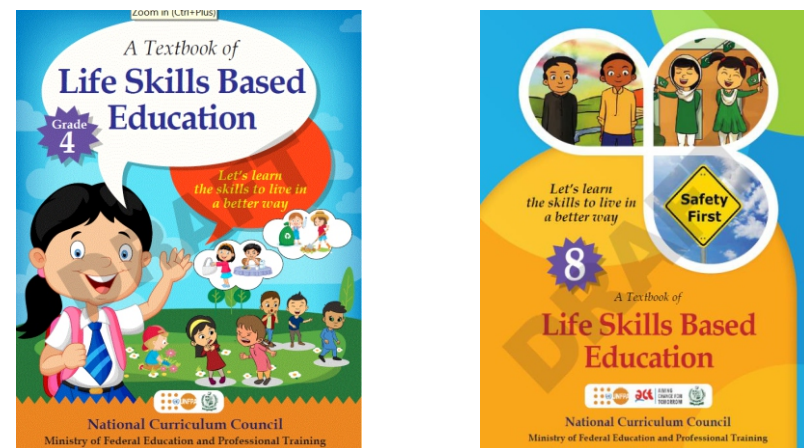
Development of Teacher training manuals

In collaboration with the National Curriculum Council (NCC) and the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (MoFEPT) of the Government of Pakistan, ACT is actively developing a teacher training manual for Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE). This manual adopts an inclusive approach aimed at enhancing the capacity of teachers who integrate LSBE into their instruction. It is thoughtfully tailored to align with Pakistan's educational demographics and socio-economic realities. The manual is structured into four main sections: the first section outlines the training's objectives and overall learning outcomes for teachers in LSBE; the second section provides an overview of the content and scheduling; the third section details training day plans, including session outcomes, learning activities, pacing, and resource requirements; and the fourth section encompasses annexures containing essential materials, including effective teacher characteristics and Islamic reference materials related to LSBE.



Development of text books of LSBE

ACT has successfully developed LSBE textbooks for both Class 4 and Class 8. These textbooks are designed to provide comprehensive and age-appropriate education in Life Skills-Based Education, ensuring that students at these grade levels receive valuable instruction and guidance in essential life skills.



Province wise Teacher's trainings on LSBE in South Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan & Azad Jammu & Kashmir

Teacher's Training Glimpses from South Punjab



Teacher's Training Glimpses from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Teacher's Training Glimpses from Gilgit Baltistan



Teacher's Training Glimpses from AJ&K

The province-wise teacher training initiatives on Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) in South Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir were organized as a continuation of the National Curriculum Council's (NCC) Teacher's Training Program with a specific emphasis on LSBE. In collaboration with the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (MoFEPT) of the Government of Pakistan, ACT has developed LSBE-focused teacher training manuals. These manuals adopt an inclusive approach to enhance the capacity of teachers who are tasked with instructing LSBE as an integrated subject, taking into account the unique educational demographics and socio-economic realities of Pakistan. A substantial number of teachers have already undergone LSBE training sessions across the nation, with a particular focus on regions such as Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and South Punjab.

During the LSBE orientation training, educators gained an in-depth understanding of the LSBE framework and its implementation requirements, recognizing its significance within the context of evolving situations. This training equips teachers with the necessary skills to employ key pedagogical methods essential for teaching life skills concepts, utilizing textbooks and other educational resources. Moreover, teachers are encouraged to foster ethical and social development in students while promoting critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and reasoning skills.



Training on Reproductive Health & Rights for Young Transgender Trainers

With generous technical and financial support from UNFPA, ACT International has successfully executed a comprehensive Training on Reproductive Health & Rights (RHR) program. The primary objective of this initiative is to cultivate and strengthen a cadre of young trainers who can subsequently assume the role of master trainers, bolstering the capacity of youth and community members in matters pertaining to Reproductive Health Rights. The training itself has been crafted with innovative methodologies designed to facilitate a more effective understanding of technical terminology in the realm of RHR. To serve as a valuable reference, a comprehensive handbook on RHR has been meticulously developed and translated into Urdu to ensure accessibility for all participants. In conjunction with this handbook, a Training of Trainers (ToT) manual has been thoughtfully prepared, serving as a guiding resource for young trainers as they embark on their independent training journeys. These master trainers, in the future, will continue to pass on their knowledge to young individuals through a cascade training model. The preparatory phase of the training took place in August 2022, and the program was officially launched in September 2022. Participants hailing from three districts in South Punjab, namely Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Multan, actively engaged in the training, laying the foundation for a more informed and empowered community.



Cascade Training of Transgenders

In September 2022, a series of cascade training events focused on Reproductive Health & Rights (RHR) were conducted across three districts: Multan, Bahawalpur, and Dera Ghazi Khan. These events, totaling four in number, witnessed the active participation of a total of 80 transgender individuals, with 40 hailing from Multan, 20 from Dera Ghazi Khan, and an additional 20 from Bahawalpur. The group of transgender participants exhibited remarkable diversity, encompassing varying levels of education, interests, and professions. It is noteworthy that a few of the participants held advanced degrees, including Masters' and Graduation qualifications. However, the majority of the transgender attendees had received primary education or lower levels of formal schooling. This diverse representation underscores the inclusivity and accessibility of the cascade training initiatives.

Training of Researchers in AJK for Assessment of Out of School Children

In Pakistan, where over 64 percent of the population is under the age of 30, there exists one of the world's largest young populations. Paradoxically, it also grapples with the distinction of having the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children (OOSC), estimated at a staggering 22.8 million children between the ages of 5 and 16 who are not attending school, representing 44% of this age group. This issue intensifies as children transition from the 5-9 age bracket, with 5 million children not enrolled in schools, to the ages of 10-14, where the number of OOSC doubles, affecting 11.4 million adolescents. These challenges are further compounded by disparities based on gender, socio-economic status, and geography. For instance, in Sindh, 52 percent of the poorest children (including 58 percent girls) are out of school, while in AJK, a staggering 78 percent of girls face the same circumstance. At the primary level, approximately 10.7 million boys and 8.6 million girls are enrolled, a number that diminishes to 3.6 million boys and 2.8 million girls at the lower secondary level. Given this critical scenario, there is a dearth of comprehensive studies, particularly in the context of AJK, aimed at identifying the factors contributing to the high dropout rates. To address this gap,

ACT, with support from UNFPA, has developed research tools to assess the OOSC situation. Consequently, 12 researchers have been meticulously trained on these research tools, hailing from three districts in AJK, namely Muzaffarabad, Poonch, and Mirpur. These dedicated researchers are currently in the field, endeavoring to uncover the structural and social factors that underlie the persistently high dropout rates among children.

ToT for Young Student Council Members on Leadership Skills and LSBE

Pakistan boasts a rich history of student politics, where students actively engaged in Students' Union Elections, advocating for the welfare of their fellow students. However, this tradition of students' unions, over time, faced challenges and ultimately faded from our educational institutions. Recognizing the need for a different approach, Dr. Ehtasham Anwar, the Secretary of the School Education Department in South Punjab, introduced the concept of Student Councils, aiming to shift away from traditional unionism. Unlike unions that often involve students in political activities, student councils prioritize an environment devoid of such political engagement.

The School Education Department has diligently worked to implement this system in schools across South Punjab. Eleven districts in the region were selected to nominate school representatives for training, marking the initial step in building the capacity of students and enhancing the leadership skills of our young leaders. The training sessions, conducted over three days, revolved around leadership and life skills, providing invaluable insights and knowledge to young student council members in Multan.

The training sessions were held from September 26, 2022, to September 28, 2022, for boys and from September 30, 2022, to October 2, 2022, for girls, with a total of 120 students participating from 11 districts in South Punjab. The participants were divided into four batches, with two batches for girls and one for boys in each category. These training sessions took place at the Avalon Hotel in Multan, representing a significant stride in nurturing the leadership potential of our youth in South Punjab.

Breast Cancer Awareness Launching Campaign

Throughout the month of October, recognized globally as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month," President Arif Alvi and First Lady Begum Samina Alvi have been steadfast advocates of a nationwide breast cancer awareness campaign Pakistan since 2018. On October 10, 2022, this campaign reached a significant milestone with an event hosted at Aiwan e Sadar in Islamabad. This occasion attracted the presence of distinguished figures, including ministers, diplomats, healthcare professionals, as well as both international and national organizations dedicated to this critical cause. Furthermore, hundreds of women from diverse backgrounds added their voices to this collective effort.



This endeavor was made possible through a collaborative partnership between Aiming Change for Tomorrow (ACT), Shifa International, Dopasi, and WHO, where purposefully designed kiosks were established to engage and inform attendees. ACT International, in alignment with the universal symbol of

breast cancer awareness, also distributed pink ribbons to raise awareness among those less familiar with the cause.

During the launch ceremony of the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Arif Alvi underscored the paramount importance of preventive measures, particularly in a developing country such as Pakistan, where access to treatment options may be limited. President Alvi also highlighted the positive outcomes of the continuous efforts led by the First Lady and various partners over four years. He emphasized that an increasing number of women are seeking early medical intervention for breast cancer, a trend that holds promise for reducing mortality rates.

In conclusion, President Arif Alvi and First Lady Begum Samina Alvi rallied the audience to join hands in this noble endeavor to safeguard the lives of women. The fight against breast cancer is of utmost significance, warranting a dedicated focus on self-health and the breaking of societal taboos, all while collectively advocating against this formidable disease.

Consultative Workshops on Draft Inclusive LSBE Curriculum

ACT International has embarked on a new initiative aimed at empowering differently-abled young individuals. To facilitate this endeavor, a draft Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) curriculum rooted in Inclusive Education has been meticulously crafted. During the developmental phase of this curriculum, four mini consultative workshops were thoughtfully organized, each focusing on a different type of disability—physical disability, intellectual disability, hearing disability, and visual disability.

Given that the curriculum addresses these four distinct types of disabilities, separate mini consultative workshops were conducted, each involving relevant experts in the respective field. The second of these consultative workshops took place at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on November 29, 2022 (Wednesday). Its purpose was to meticulously review the Draft of the Inclusive LSBE Curriculum, specifically tailored for differently-abled young individuals.

The workshop witnessed the participation of esteemed individuals from various entities, including UNFPA, the Ministry of Human Rights, civil society organizations specializing in disability advocacy, as well as federal and provincial ministries of education, among others. These participants actively engaged in the workshop, providing invaluable feedback on the draft LSBE Inclusive curriculum, further advancing the cause of inclusive education and empowerment for differently-abled youth.



Development and roll out of outreach strategy for enrollment of OOSC through promotion of 1234 helpline

ACT has successfully developed a comprehensive strategy aimed at engaging Out-of-School Children (OOSC) through the utilization of the 1234 helpline. To shape this strategy, ACT conducted a series of five Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) involving OOSC and their parents/caretakers in Multan. This endeavor resulted in the active participation of 87 children (57 boys and 30 girls), 20 parents/caretakers, and the

identification of OOSC candidates took place through workshops, Sarafa Bazar, Embroidery centers, home labor, Barber shops, and various other outreach channels. ACT also ensured that caretakers, including parents and guardians of these children, were actively involved in the process.

The outcome of these five FGDs conducted with OOSC, parents, and caretakers has demonstrated a remarkable increase in enrollment in Subh-e-Nau schools and generated a substantial demand for education among these children. These findings have been meticulously compiled into a comprehensive report, shedding light on the highly effective tools for engaging OOSC and reintegrating them into the educational system.

The OOSC strategy also encompasses a detailed plan for promoting the 1234 helpline. Radio messages, carefully crafted for this purpose, were developed and broadcasted through the FM 96 radio channel. During the FGDs, OOSC expressed their keen interest in returning to school, provided that all necessary arrangements were in place to address the barriers that hindered their access to education. These barriers primarily revolved around poverty, teacher attitudes, and a lack of information about Subh-e-Nau schools, all of which have been taken into account in the strategy's formulation.

National Workshop on Showcasing Best Practices of Life Skills-Based Education

ACT International conducted a significant experience-sharing workshop, bringing together trained teachers from public sector primary schools across AJK, KP, GB, ICT, and South Punjab. This gathering saw participation from over 100 dedicated individuals, all eager to share their experiences and engage in cross-learning activities. The workshop was strategically held at AIOU in Islamabad and was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, the Federal Minister for Education, who chaired the event.

Accompanying Mr. Hussain were notable figures such as Maj. Gen. Muhammad Asghar, DG FGEI (Cantts/Garrisons); Dr. Ehtasham Anwar, Secretary Education SP; Dr. Rubina Ali, Assistant Representative a.i UNFPA; Mr. Muhammad Rafique Tahir, Chairman Center of Excellence AIOU; the Vice Chancellor of AIOU, and the CEO of ACT. Furthermore, education managers from GB, AJK, KP, ICT, and South Punjab played a pivotal role in the workshop, with individuals like Mr. Gohar Ali Khan (DPD KP), Ms. Hina Chaudhry (SED South Punjab), Mr. Raja Naseer (DCRD AJK), Mr. Sajjad Khan (Education Dept GB), Mr. Qaisar Alam (Chairman FBISE), Mr. Ghulam Ali Mallah (DG IPCC), as well as representatives from civil society organizations, FDE, Special Education Departments, and more.

The workshop served as a platform to showcase the overall success of Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) activities throughout Pakistan to key stakeholders and decision-makers. It emphasized the positive impact of teacher training programs, evident in the transformed attitudes of teachers. Additionally, the workshop facilitated cross-learning opportunities and the exchange of best practices in the realm of LSBE.



Women & Girls Friendly Spaces (WGFS) Flood Response

ACT and UNFPA collaborated to establish a Women and Girl-Friendly Space (WGFS) in the Village Patti Jumma Arain, Union Council Jahanpur of Tehsil Rajanpur, in response to the devastating floods. The dedicated project staff actively engage with local women, adolescent girls, and children, offering a range of activities aimed at helping them overcome the trauma caused by the flood and enhancing their skills and knowledge.

These activities encompass indoor and outdoor games designed for children, informative sessions on hygiene promotion, group discussions, individual counseling sessions addressing gender-based violence (GBV), group activities such as planting and embroidery work, and the identification and registration of the most vulnerable families for assistance. Impressively, a total of 7,436 beneficiaries have benefited from the WGFS, with an average of 60 women, adolescent girls, and children visiting the facility daily.

To further extend the outreach and purpose of the WGFS, project staff embarked on visits to various hamlets during the first week of October 2022. During these visits, they informed families about the WGFS and its objectives. The community's response was exceedingly positive, with local males actively encouraging their women, girls, and children to utilize the facility for support and empowerment.



Distribution of Dignity Kits

In November 2022, ACT initiated the distribution process of dignity kits as part of its humanitarian efforts. The process commenced with meticulous mapping and was followed by fieldwork conducted by ACT volunteers in the neighboring tehsils of Rajanpur. This fieldwork aimed to identify the most deserving beneficiaries based on criteria such as vulnerability, need, disability, and the severity of the impact of the floods on individuals and families.

The beneficiaries chosen for the distribution of these dignity kits included pregnant women, lactating women, and adolescent girls who were part of the Women and Girl-Friendly Spaces (WGFS) in Rajanpur. In total, 120 individuals received these essential dignity kits. This distribution encompassed 40 girls aged 12 to 18 years, 32 girls aged 20 to 30 years, 22 women aged 30 to 40 years, and 26 women aged 40 to 50 years. This initiative was a vital step in providing essential support to those who needed it most in the wake of the flooding crisis.



Training on Gender Based Violence (GBV) at WGFS in Rajanpur

In an effort to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV) at the Women and Girl-Friendly Spaces (WGFS) in Rajanpur, a comprehensive GBV training program was implemented. A GBV training manual, initially developed in English, was thoughtfully translated into Urdu to ensure clear understanding by participants. The training incorporated diverse methodologies to enhance engagement, including presentations, brainstorming sessions, sharing of best practices, informative lectures, interactive discussions, group activities, and energizers.

A total of 15 beneficiaries had the opportunity to undergo this crucial training, which focused on preventing GBV and introduced effective referral mechanisms. Participants were sensitized to various aspects, including GBV prevention, Reproductive Health and Rights (RHR), and Menstrual Hygiene Management. Furthermore, the training encompassed sessions on infant feeding and hygiene promotion during emergency situations. Alongside the educational components, the training provided much-needed psychosocial support to empower participants in addressing and combating GBV effectively.

Cascade Training Sessions on GBV at WGFS in Rajanpur

Building on the foundation of the Training of Trainers (ToT) program focused on preventing Gender-Based Violence (GBV), a series of 10 cascade training sessions were carried out in the district of Rajanpur. Empowered women who had previously undergone ToT sessions took on the role of trainers themselves. These dedicated trainers successfully imparted their knowledge to a total of 250 women and girls, equipping them with essential skills and awareness to effectively prevent GBV. The cascade training sessions utilized the same effective methodologies employed during the initial ToT, ensuring the widespread dissemination of valuable information and practices for GBV prevention.

Mobile Health Unit (MHU)

ACT International, with the generous support of UNFPA, has introduced Mobile Healthcare Services in District Rajanpur to deliver essential healthcare to families affected by flooding. The Mobile Health Unit (MHU) initiative extends its services to both peripheral and core areas of Rajanpur District, offering a range of vital medical care options. These services encompass antenatal care (ANC), postnatal care (PNC), and gynecological care.

Throughout its operations, the MHU has conducted 33 camps across District Rajanpur, providing care to a total of 1,504 patients. This inclusive approach has catered to the needs of 566 children, 894 females, and 44 males from various localities, including Basti Patti Jumma Arain, Basti Kishani, Basti Allah Wasaya, Basti Chak Burda, Chak Jalalpur, and Basti Sarki. The target audience primarily consisted of women, pregnant and lactating women, girls, and children, and the services rendered encompassed screening, ANC/PNC services, and medication. Notably, the number of patients served exceeded the planned target of 67 patients per day, highlighting the effectiveness and necessity of this MHU initiative.



Transitioning of NYHL from Rahnuma FPAP to ACT international

Commencing on January 1st, 2023, the National Youth Helpline (NYHL) underwent a transition from Rahnuma FPAP to ACT International, with the invaluable support and funding provided by UNFPA. Rahnuma FPAP successfully piloted the project from August 2022 to December 2022. Subsequently, ACT International has taken the reins and is slated to oversee the project for the entirety of 2023, commencing on January 1st.

This vital initiative operates from the premises of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, serving as a beacon of support and guidance for the youth of our nation.

Two days refresher training of National Youth Helpline (NYHL)

Aiming for Tomorrow (ACT) conducted a comprehensive two-day refresher training program designed for the 10 counselors serving on the National Youth Helpline (NYHL). This training occurred at the NAHE Academic Division building, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, on March 15th-16th, 2023. Given the evolving nature of challenges encountered by young individuals, it is imperative that NYHL staff stay current with the requisite knowledge and skills to offer effective assistance. Regular refresher courses are instrumental in ensuring that helpline personnel are well-versed in the latest developments in SRHR and updated psychosocial counseling techniques.

The primary objective of the two-day refresher training was to augment the skills and knowledge of youth helpline counselors, enabling them to deliver proficient support and guidance to young individuals in need. The training encompassed a diverse range of topics, including an orientation on SRH concepts and international commitments, enhancement of psychosocial counseling competencies, proficiency in software data management and reporting, establishment of referral mechanisms for youths facing crises, an orientation on safeguarding and the ethical considerations integral to counseling services, and insights into operational modalities. The participants actively engaged in interactive discussions and role-playing exercises to refine their communication skills and gain deeper insights into the challenges confronted by young people. Moreover, they acquired an appreciation for the significance of self-care and stress management as crucial components in preventing burnout.





Establishment of 16 WGFS centers in Sindh, Baluchistan and South Punjab

With UNFPA's financial support, ACT established a Women and Girls Friendly Space (WGFS) in District Rajanpur in September 2022, providing emergency psychosocial and health services to women, adolescent girls, and children affected by the floods. Recognizing the urgent need for such services in flood-affected Baluchistan, ACT expanded its efforts in February 2023. With UNFPA's backing, six additional WGFS centers were set up in District Sibi and Naseerabad, Baluchistan. Subsequently, in April 2023, ACT extended its reach further by establishing six more WGFS centers, this time in District Umerkot and Badin, Sindh, along with an additional center in District Rajanpur, South Punjab. In August 2023, ACT successfully transitioned three centers from SPO to ACT management, now operational in Districts Rajanpur and Dera Ghazi Khan, South Punjab. These initiatives underscore ACT's unwavering commitment to providing essential support and services to vulnerable communities, especially women, adolescent girls, and children, in response to challenging circumstances. The WGFS centers have played a vital role in addressing psychosocial, health, and gender-based violence challenges among women and adolescent girls. They have actively engaged with local communities, built trust, and established crucial linkages with government departments, NGOs, and INGOs for referrals when needed, making significant contributions to the well-being and empowerment of women and girls in their areas of operation.



Flood Response

Unconditional life saving cash assistance program for the flood affected communities - Sohbatpur (Balochistan)

This initiative became feasible due to the gracious financial support extended by the World Food Program (WFP). ACT's steadfast dedication to addressing the pressing needs of vulnerable communities affected by natural calamities remains resolute. Within the framework of this program, ACT allocated PKR 324 million for the disbursement of unconditional cash transfers to 9,000 beneficiaries, as well as directed an investment of PKR 54 million towards conditional cash-for-work initiatives. This strategic allocation facilitated the rejuvenation of local infrastructure while concurrently empowering communities to regain self-sufficiency. This collaborative endeavor epitomizes our unwavering commitment to delivering immediate relief and nurturing resilience in regions grappling with the aftermath of disasters, all made possible through the invaluable backing of the WFP.

Unconditional life saving cash assistance program for the flood affected communities - Rajanpur (South Punjab)

This pivotal project has been realized through the generous contributions of our esteemed partners and benefactors, underscoring our steadfast dedication to delivering timely relief to communities contending with the aftermath of natural calamities. In the region of Rajanpur, South Punjab, we executed the disbursement of PKR 12,000 to a cohort of 7,000 beneficiaries throughout three discrete cycles, thereby extending indispensable financial support. Moreover, our implementation of Conditional Cash-for-Work programs effectively mobilized community members in the restoration of vital infrastructure, concurrently nurturing both immediate recuperation and enduring resilience.



Provide early recovery assistance to families affected by floods in the Naseerabad Division of Balochistan

In October 2022, ACT International and Care for Others joined forces to provide early recovery assistance to families affected by floods in the Naseerabad Division of Balochistan. The partnership aimed to address both immediate and long-term vulnerabilities among the flood-affected populations. ACT International delivered a range of services in the Naseerabad Division, benefiting approximately 11,500 individuals across District Jaffarabad, Naseerabad, Usta Muhammad, and Sohbat Pur. These services included:

1. Provision of winterization kits, benefiting 1,228 households and a total of 7,368 individuals.
2. Distribution of agricultural inputs, including wheat seeds and fertilizers, to 120 households, impacting 720 individuals.
3. Delivery of healthcare services through a mobile health unit, reaching 2,771 flood-affected individuals, among whom 919 were women (33%), 1,237 were children (45%), and 615 were men (22%).
4. Construction of 16 one-room houses and 4 washrooms to provide shelter for homeless flood-affected families, with a total of 96 individual beneficiaries.
5. Provision of cash assistance to support livelihood restoration and small businesses, with PKR 35,000 disbursed to 30 households, benefitting 180 individual recipients.

