



Narrative Report



Breaking the Silence: Creating a Safer World for our Children

Sponsored by:

American Embassy Islamabad -
US-Government Grants Program

Target Districts:

Kohat, Swabi, Mohmand & Khyber

Implementation Period:

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Development Agent of Change
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Introduction

In Pakistan, twelve cases of sexual abuse are reported every day, which is a mere 20% of the total incidence happening across the country. These cases include rape, sodomy, gang rape/sodomy, molestation, harassment & abduction. In 2017, 3,445 cases of child abuse were reported whereas in 2018, in just six months, 2,322 cases were reported between January and June, which shows a 32% increase in the incidence of child sexual abuse. Majority of these children are girls (59%). The incidence of child abuse occurs mostly in rural areas (76%). Poor children working outside their homes are more vulnerable than the others. According to a report, about 3.8 million children are involved in labor activities in Pakistan. They are more exposed to various forms of abuse in factories and workplaces. A study conducted on street children in Peshawar revealed that 90% of the boys, interviewed were sexually abused. Gruesome stories are attached to the abuse of these innocent poor helpless souls. In 2017, 109 children were murdered after sexual abuse. The children are robbed of their dignity, traumatized, psychologically ruined, and made addicts or criminals. The girls' are deprived of schooling and, career opportunities, and are compelled to either commit suicide or live a traumatized and stigmatized life.

Child protection cases remain un/under-reported due to a general distrust in the legal and justice system and the stigma attached to the profiling of such cases. Other reasons are the non-cooperative attitude of police; disclosure of sexual abuse as a social taboo; ignorance; illiteracy, fear of enmity, fear of parents, and widespread poverty.

With the financial assistance of American Embassy Islamabad under the US Government Grants Programme, the Development Agent of Change (DAC) conducted extensive awareness cum capacity building workshops from December 2018- Feb 2019 in the four districts of KP & erstwhile FATA. The target groups comprise of students from primary to higher secondary schools, teachers and principals as well as village women councilors. It was FIRST of its kind project that instigated its audience to speak out about such a prohibited subject. The teachers, as well as women councilors, highly appreciated the initiative. The children, particularly girls, shared their traumatic experiences and spoke openly about various ways they were attempted to be assaulted and blackmailed.

Project Objectives

The core objective of this project was to create mass scale awareness against child sexual abuse. The target groups were trained according to their roles. For example, teachers and women councilors were trained in legal remedies available and, the role of different state agencies to mitigate the incidents of child abuse and bring the culprits to book. Students were explained various techniques used by criminals to trap, blackmail, and molest them. They were informed about different precautionary measures they can adopt to protect themselves. The selection of target groups was carried out in a systematic and careful manner for the sustainability of the project. For example, women councilors are entrusted by the Local Government Act to visit households in their wards and create awareness about various social issues as well as resolve their problems. The job of teachers and principals is to educate students throughout their professional career. Children are the major target of abuse and hence they were given an opportunity to know more about the subject matter from trained Master trainers - male students by male trainers and female students by female trainers. Resultantly, they were at ease expressing their views on the subject and narrate their stories to the master trainers. Stakeholder organizations were required to be networked, such as civil society organizations, government departments (Local Govt, Education, Police

Departments and Prosecution), social media, print and electronic media) and other relevant forums. Online Help Desk is required for SMS/WhatsApp based facilitation and advisory services and help in access to free legal aid.

The Objectives of the project entailed:

- I. Awareness amongst the Women Village Councilors.
 - 1) Awareness and Capacity Building of Women Village Councilors in District Swabi.
 - 2) Awareness and Capacity Building of Women Village Councilors in District Kohat.
- II. Awareness and Capacity Building of Teachers.
 - 1) Awareness and Capacity Building of Teachers in District Kohat.
 - 2) Awareness and Capacity Building of Teachers in District Swabi.
 - 3) Awareness and Capacity Building of Teachers in tribal district Khyber erstwhile FATA.
 - 4) Awareness and Capacity Building of Teachers in tribal District Muhmand erstwhile FATA.
- III. Awareness among Girls' Students.
 - 1) Awareness among Girls' Students in District Kohat.
 - 2) Awareness among Girls' Students in District Swabi.
 - 3) Awareness among Girls' Students in tribal District Khyber erstwhile FATA.
 - 4) Awareness among Girls' Students in tribal District Muhmand erstwhile FATA.
- IV. Awareness among Boys' Students
 - 1) Awareness among Boys' Students in District Kohat.
 - 2) Awareness among Boys' Students in District Swabi.
 - 3) Awareness among Boys' Students in tribal District Khyber FATA.
 - 4) Awareness among Boys' Students in tribal District Muhmand FATA.
- V. Other Awareness Campaigns:
 - 1) Awareness and Capacity Building of Circle Incharge in all the 04 target Districts.
 - 2) Radio Interviews and Talk shows.
 - 3) TV Interviews.
 - 4) Development of Training Manuals, banners, and Training material.

Operational Strategy:

The project comprised of five phases: 1) Training content development 2) Stakeholder's sensitization 3) Training of Trainers 4) Training Scheduling 5) Awareness campaigns.

Phase-I: Training Content Development.

Awareness-cum-Training Manuals were developed in Urdu, in consultation with the USGP's team. The Training Manual comprised of following sections a) Introduction (Child Abuse) b) methods and practices to trap children c) preventive measures d) legal remedies, penalties under PPC, legal aid and relief forums and, e) emergency contact numbers. Twenty thousand copies of the manual were printed and distributed during the awareness campaigns. The Manual now serves as a Guide and Reference booklet for the teachers, students, and women village councilors. It provides a concise compendium of all relevant aspects of the issue of child abuse, protective measures, and legal remedies.

Banners, posters for the general public, and feedback questionnaires were also designed. Besides, a detailed project implementation Activity Schedule was prepared to meet project completion deadlines.

Also, DAC made efforts to arrange Manuals about the Local Government System. These Manuals included a) Guide to the Local Government Act (Urdu) b) Local Government Act, 2013 (Urdu) c) Budget Manuals and d) Village Council Rules and Regulations. The official documents were distributed amongst all the women village councilors invited for the Training Workshops.



Phase-II: Stakeholders Sensitization

Before creating awareness amongst the target groups, the top District Management was taken onboard about the objectives of the forthcoming awareness-cum-capacity building campaigns. Meetings were held with the District Nazim Kohat, which was attended by all the stakeholder departments; such as District Education



Officers (male & female), Assistant Director (AD)-Local Government and Child Protection Officers of the Child Protection Unit under Social Welfare Department. Mediamen were also invited to these meetings.

Another meeting was held with the Deputy Commissioner Swabi, which was also attended by all the stakeholder departments such as; District Education officers (male & female), AD-Local Government and Child Officer of the District Child Protection Units of Social Welfare Department. Similar meetings were held with the district stakeholder departments in Tribal District Khyber and Muhmand, where Focal Persons were appointed for coordination of the Project's activities.



Meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Swabi

Phase-III: Training of Trainers (ToT)

An enthusiastic, experienced, and committed Team of Master Trainers (MTs) were trained in the DAC office for four days. The ToT included a complete understanding of the Training Manual, Training Ethics, Dos, and Don'ts, Training Protocols, and student's engagement techniques. The MTs were also advised to conduct role-plays and narrate short inspirational stories so the students can understand the message easily and quickly. Besides, the MTs were trained in audience management (students and teachers), performance reporting, filling of feedback questionnaires, taking attendance and pictures, and recording short videos.



Phase-IV: Training Scheduling.

Complete contact details of the Principals/Headmistresses/Head Masters of all schools in the four target districts were obtained from the respective District Education Officers and focal persons. Contact details of the women village councilors were obtained from the Assistant Directors Local Government

concerned, in the two target districts, namely; Swabi and Kohat. The tribal districts have no local governments at present, and hence only the public schools were selected for the awareness campaigns.

The support staff from DAC informed every single school and scheduled the date and time of the awareness –cum-capacity building workshops with mutual convenience. DAC’s team also scheduled the Training Sessions with male and female Circle Incharge (Headmasters/Head Mistresses of schools who coordinates administrative matters for attached middle and primary schools in a cluster) in all the four target districts. The training of women village councilors was scheduled in consultation with the Assistant Directors of respective districts. They women councilors were informed by DAC Office as well as AD-Local Government.

Phase V: Awareness Campaigns

The training was conducted in schools, district councils, and office of headmasters/headmistress/circle incharge to create awareness amongst the target groups - students, women councilors and, circle incharge. Print and electronic media were also used to broadcast the message to a wider audience.

Awareness-Cum-Capacity Building in Schools.

The awareness-cum-capacity building campaigns were conducted in all the four target districts, under a pre-scheduled plan of action, prepared in consultation with the District Administration and school Principals/Headmasters/Mistresses. Nine teams of experts (six females and three males with two Master Trainers and a Social Mobilizer in each team) visited the schools and imparted the awareness-cum-training program. All the students in the schools were gathered in the school hall or Assembly ground for the interactive awareness sessions. Two third of the target schools were girls’ schools, and 1/3rd were boys’ schools. The schools were selected in consultation with the respective district managers/focal persons, based on location (urban vs. rural), school strength (number of students) and the comparative vulnerability of the area. Except for the Kohat city and Swabi city, all the selected schools were in rural areas. Schools, located deep inside the Khyber and Mohmand tribal districts, were also covered. Few attendance sheets, one each from the four target districts are at Annexed. Similarly, district wise pictures of the awareness-cum-training sessions are also Annexed.



The contents of the Awareness/Training sessions for the three target groups comprised of the following elements :

Students-(5 years and above).

- a) Roleplays & narration of short stories by the Master Trainers.
- b) Interactive discussion of the Training manual.
- c) Sloganeering.
- d) Q & A and Feedback.
- e) Group activity.

The children, especially girls, took a keen interest in the awareness sessions, once they were given the confidence, explained the severity of the issue and, objectives of the awareness. They shared their bitter experiences and the trauma they are undergoing.

Teachers including Principals and Headmistresses/Head Masters

- a) Interactive review and discussion of the training manual.
- b) Remedial measures to be adopted by parents and teachers
- c) Legal Aid forums
- d) Continuous periodical awareness
- e) Questions and answers/feedback.
- f) Group activity.



Circle Incharge

- a) Interactive review and discussion using the Training Manual.
- b) Remedial measures that can be adopted by parents and teachers
- c) Legal Aid forums
- d) Continuous awareness creation.
- e) Feedback and Q&A.
- f) Group activity.



Awareness-Cum-Capacity Building for Women Village Councilors.

Women village councilors (wvc), elected two per village council/neighborhood council (VC/NC), are the grassroots representation of women. They are directly elected and operate whole time in their respective communities. They are role models for their communities and are daring enough to confront the challenges women face in their daily lives.

The Local Government system is in place in KP but not yet in the ex-tribal areas. The WVCs in District Swabi and Kohat were invited through the office of Assistant Director Local Government (Coordinator) as well as DAC Office.



District Nazim Swabi

The venue of the training was District Council Hall Shah Mansoor Swabi and District Council Hall KDA Kohat. The workshops covered the following topics:

- a) The issue of Child Sexual Abuse.
- b) The role of Women Councilors towards society, under LGA 2013.
- c) Legal penal regime for Child Sexual Abuse.
- d) Free Legal Aid and forums available for the help of victims.
- e) Feedback.

WVCs from all the 04 sub-districts/tehsils namely; Swabi, Topi, Rajjar and Chota Lahore of District Swabi participated in the Workshop. Dr. Bushra Rahim, along with the legal expert, Ms. Rabia Noor, AD Local Government and District Child Protection Officer, conducted the Workshop. The team



was supported by Social Mobilizers Ms. Gulara and Zille Huma. District Nazim presided over the last day ceremony. He highly appreciated the initiative and thanked the American Government and US Embassy

Islamabad for supporting this critical initiative for awareness and control of child abuse. The WVCs also expressed their satisfaction with the refresher course about the LG system in Urdu/Pushto. They were given a set of free manuals about Local Government system by DAC for their day-to-day use. Assessment of the feedback survey is in process and is being processed for a research paper. Pre and post activity feedback survey forms were also served on the participants.

A similar workshop was organized for WVCs from the two sub-districts of District Kohat namely, Kohat and Lachi, at the district Council Hall in KDA Kohat. The Team led by Dr. Bushra imparted the training. District Nazim presided over the closing ceremony. Print and electronic media covered the last day event. Pre and post activity feedback Survey Forms were served on the participants.



The WVCs valued very high the awareness-cum-capacity building for combating the menace of child abuse, which is spreading unabated. They informed that the incidents of child sexual abuse are never spoken about, being a social taboo, and there is little awareness about the legal remedies or free legal aid. They reaffirmed their resolve to create awareness in their respective communities, approach the free legal aid available, and to seek guidance from the online Help Desk established by DAC. They also expressed their satisfaction with the refresher course about the LG system in Urdu/Pushto. They were given a set of free manuals about Local Government system by DAC for their day-to-day use. The Nazim and WVCs highly appreciated the initiative and thanked the American Government and US Embassy Islamabad for supporting this critical initiative for awareness and control of child abuse. Assessment of the feedback survey is in process and being processed for a research paper.



Cross-Cutting Activities & Triangulation.

The project 'Breaking the silence and creating a safer world for our children' brought all the stakeholders at one platform. The District Nazims/Deputy Commissioners spearheaded the initiatives, which gave it the highest degree of ownership in the target districts. The district Heads of the attached departments cooperated and coordinated once they received directions from their high-ups. District Education officers (Male and female) provided the contact details of



Principals/Headmasters/HeadMistresses of all the schools. They also issued directions to them to coordinate and facilitate the campaign. There were many instances where the Principals/Headmasters/Mistresses approached Project Management to give priority to their schools. The sessions were repeated sometimes twice and thrice to cover maximum students, repeat the skits and practical exercise to ensure the message reached the audience. The WVCs were informed by the concerned Assistant Director Local Government, who is the coordinator for the



local government system in a district. They reserved the district council halls and facilitated the activity. They also delivered lectures/presentations about practical aspects of the issues related to the WVCs in the local government system and addressed the questions from the WVCs, who rarely meet the AD-LG. The WVCs highly appreciated their meeting with District Nazims, who patiently heard their problems and issued directions to the concerned to facilitate the WVCs and promised to allocate funds for the projects to be identified by the WVCs. The Child Protection Officers in Swabi and Kohat duly participated in all the Workshops for WVCs. They expressed their desire to revive the Child Protection Committees, constituted at the Muhalla/Village level, but the ad-hoc structure of their Units and shortage of resources are some of the handicaps.

The district education officers in the two tribal districts, Khyber and Mohmand played a pivotal role in making the campaign successful. They designated Focal Persons, provided contact details of all Principals/Headmasters/HeadMistresses, informed them and coordinated meetings with the Circle Incharges (both male and female). The DAC's capacity building teams, particularly female teams, received warm welcome everywhere in FATA. Some of the Principals/Headmasters/HeadMistresses and Teachers volunteered to work for the cause and participated in the TV/Radio awareness programs and served as resource persons. One Headmistresses from Khyber, one WVC from Kohat and the CPO from Kohat participated in the TV Talk shows/ Programs.

Stakeholders' Feedback

In Kohat, a female student of Grade 10 shared her story in private with the MT. She informed that she works part-time for a non-governmental local welfare office and the boss is continuously harassing her. However, she is unable to tell her parents, as they are very poor and need her income to meet the expenses. Even if she informs them, they would withdraw her from school and restrict her to home. Also, she was afraid that if she informed anyone, the Manager could fire her from the job. She further said that she is under continuous pressure and tension. The Project management tactfully approached her boss and introduced her as a close relative to one of the officers. This way, the boss stopped harassing her, and thus, the issue was settled amicably, without compromising on her education and job.

Four girls in Jamrud Khyber Tribal districts informed that they are being harassed by boys through mobile messages. They are going through the mental torture on their own being fearful of the defamation and probability of enmity. They were encouraged to share the issues with their parents and teachers who will approach the parents of the boys and stop them from the harassment. The teachers narrated many stories of sexual harassment of the children while they travel to or from school. They also narrated tragic stories of armed scuffles and withdrawal of girls from schools. Some of the teachers narrated their own stories about how they are harassed while traveling to school. The offenders include drivers, travelers, and people around the school or their community. The personal stories and names are avoided, not to infringe their personal information and privacy.

The women village councilors had many stories to share, which included harassment, abduction, rape, sodomy, forced marriages, and murders. One WVC in Swabi narrated the tragic story of a teenage girl, trapped and blackmailed by a boy; who was killed once the news surfaced.

In a Girls High School in Kohat, a student of class 9th narrated the story of her cousin who used to live in a remote village in Kohat. She and her parents were preparing for her Mehndi ceremony as she was getting married. The same day her cousin came and asked her to accompany him to collect her clothes from the tailor for the wedding. As the girl was naïve and only 16 years old, she went out with him. He abducted her and took her to an unknown location in the fields and kept her in his custody for eight days and repeatedly raped her. The girl kept on begging him, but the beast wanted to ensure that she could only be released if his identity is not disclosed, which she refused. He shot her there, strangled her, and then de-shaped her face to conceal her identity. He then threw her body in a nearby well. Later on, she was identified by her clothes. The cousin was ultimately arrested, who confessed the brutal act.

A girl student from class 10th reported that her uncle's son was abducted by his cousins in Parachinar due to jealousy as he was a brilliant student of the 2nd year with a brilliant record. He wanted to join the Air

Force, but it remained a dream only as he was taken to a hilly area and badly abused by a gang of boys. He was subsequently murdered, and his body parts were cut into pieces and dumped.

Another shy girl who was only 15 years old narrated her own story of harassment by her boss, who is texting her regularly and asking her to go out with him. She was too nervous and mentally strained as she mentioned that if she switches off her cellphone or changes her SIM, her father would ask her the reason. She was reluctant to tell her father as this could lead her to leave the school.

In another incident narrated by a student from class 10th, her cousin named AA was a medical student hailing from Mardan, who was shot dead by YY who forcefully trapped and abducted her and kept her at a secret location for many days. The man MM was already married. Later on, when he could not bear with her any longer, he shot her dead. The police reached the culprit with the help of Forensic analysis of the cell phones data.

Banners

Banners are a good medium of mass scale awareness. Banners were displayed at prominent locations so the passersby can read them. Banners were displayed in Swabi Kachahri, main bazaar, all the three sub-district headquarters at Topi, Rajjar and Chota Lahore. Banners were also displayed in Khyber Tribal District on the historic Bab-e-Khyber, main bazaar, Bara Bazaar, and Landi Kotal. Besides, the banners were displayed at District Courts, KDA Kohat, Lachi and Nazim Officer. Furthermore, the banners were displayed on the Scout Fort Ghalnay Bazar, Shabqadar and officer of Deputy Commissioner. The logo and name of the US Embassy on the Banners attracted people's attention the most and conveyed a positive message. The people, in general, admired the contribution of the US Government for the safety of their children.



TV and Radio awareness Programs

TV and Radio are the two very important medium for mass scale awareness. A one-hour live interview of Dr. Bushra Rahim was telecasted on Khyber News Channel, in local native Pushto language, which was widely viewed and appreciated. She explained all aspects of the child sexual abuse and its implications on the lives of the victims and the remedial options available for taking the offenders into ,the book. Another TV-cum-Radio Program was telecasted on Voice of America (VoA) Deeva Radio/TV, which was participated by Mr. Saif Usmani Chairman DAC, Ms. Naseem Akhtar, Child Protection Officer Kohat and Ms. Zainab, Headmistress from Khyber Tribal District. One program each on PTV National and another on Mashriq TV/AVT Khyber will be telecasted once the findings are finalized.

News Feature and Research paper.

One of the DAC's team members is writing a research paper, titled "Breaking the Silence" based on the feedback survey. Another member is writing a detailed feature for Newspapers, encompassing the issue of child sexual abuse, its repercussions on the lives of the victims, reasons for keeping silence, low rate of conviction, legal remedies available, free legal aid services available and policy reforms required for long term sustainable control of the issue.

Online Help Desk and WhatsApp Forum

An online Help Desk has been established, which is being supported by DAC and will continue to be supported after the closure of the Project. The online help desk guides the stakeholders on different issues related to Child Abuse as well as other legal and official matters. Two WhatsApp Forum/Groups have been established for Teachers and WVCs each. Information is shared on the forums, awareness is being created, and Questions are being answered.

Scope of Project Activities

Initially, the plan was to impart awareness-cum-capacity building for the Principals/ Headmistresses/ HeadMasters of 90 schools in Kohat and Swabi district and Principals/ Headmistresses/ HeadMasters of 60 schools in Khyber and Mohmand tribal districts. However, keeping in view, the response of target groups, the scope of the project was extended to train a large number of audience. Besides, a huge number of children were trained on the subject matter. The original and actual scope of the project coverage is depicted in the following table:

#	District	Gender	Planned awareness-cum-capacity building (Principals/ Headmistresses/ HeadMasters)	Planned awareness-cum-capacity building (school children*)	Actual awareness-cum-capacity building for (Principals/ Headmistresses/ HeadMasters & Teachers)	Actual awareness-cum-capacity building (school children)
1	Swabi	Females	60	200	453	8765
		Male	30	200	245	6912
2	Kohat	Females	60	200	422	7456
		Male	30	200	212	3574
3	Khyber	Females	40	150	367	2318
		Male	20	150	174	1703
4	Muhmand	Females	40	100	310	2432
		Male	20	100	188	1317
	Total		300	1300	2371	34477

Table 1: Number of students and teachers trained – Proposed versus Actual

* The students of the schools where the training was planned to be provided at a central location for all the 60/30 Principals/Headmasters/Mistresses were supposed to attend the awareness. But due to decentralized approach a large number of teachers and students were provided awareness, when the awareness and capacity building activities were extended to schools' level.

Project Achievements

The project was a big break-through in the creation of awareness against child abuse. The important achievements of the project include a) resist and restrain child abuse b) adopt preventive measures c) take practical legal measures in case of any incident and d) to further create awareness in the respective circles.

The stakeholders highly appreciated the initiative and termed it the need of the day. The District Nazims, Deputy Commissioners and other senior government officials owned the project and extended their full support. The teachers were also glad that the American Embassy and DAC had taken such a great step regarding creating awareness amongst the girls' student. The teachers (Principals/Headmasters/Headmistresses and Women Village Councilors highly appreciated the efforts of American Embassy and DAC by breaking the silence about this social taboo, which is continuously claiming innocent lives and damaging the future of a vast number of children. They pledged their resolve to carry forward the message and combat this social evil.

The students were happy to discuss such an important issue. The interest level of the girls' students was very high. They mentioned that no one till date has ever educated them so systematically and so comprehensively on this sensitive topic. They said that so far they were feeling shy to speak about the subject, but now they would be the ambassadors to spread awareness and educate their peers on the subject. Most of the students said that "we want you (the Master Trainers) to come again to our school."

KPIs/Outputs

The project activities were monitored as per plan by the DAC M&E Team along with off-site online monitoring tools, such as "online feedback," pictures, video clips, and Feedback Survey.

Output/Key Performance Indicators are:

Indictators	Planned	Actual
1) Number of WVCs made aware and trained	267	254
2) No of Female Head Principals/Headmisstresses Teachers made aware and trained	200	1,552
3) No of Male Head Principals/Headmisstresses Teachers made aware and trained	100	819
4) Number of girls students attended the awareness sessions	670	20,971
5) Number of boys students attended the awareness sessions	670	13,506
6) Number of TV/Radion talk shows held	04	03*
7) Number of Training Manuals distributed	12,000	20,000
8) Number of banners displayed.	40	60
9) Online Help Desk Establsihed.	Yes	Yes

* One more TV talk show, a Workshop, a feature in News Paper and publication of a Reaserch Paper are underway.

Outcomes

- 1) Safe and aware civil society created
- 2) Safer environment created for our children.
- 3) A sustainable resource base established for continuous awareness (WVCs & Teachers)
- 4) Skill of Women built to fight against child abuse and avail access to legal aid.

- 5) Incidents of child abuse mitigated.
- 6) Input provided to the government for policy planning and policy reforms.

Expenditure Analysis

Project activities exceeded the planned/scheduled set of activities. The Workshops for Women Village Councilors were conducted at the respective centralized venues /District Council Halls. However, bringing the Principals/Headmistresses and Headmasters to one location was a challenging issue. Therefore, the Workshops were arranged at High Schools' where sometimes the teachers and students of the middle and primary schools in the cluster were also able to participate. Through this new strategy, the Workshops for teachers and children were conducted at schools' level, which were scattered all over the target districts. This strategy covered a large number of teachers and children as compared to those initially planned. There was excess expenditure under Expenditure Heads "Working Tea and Lunch, Travel and Contractual," which was borne by DAC.

Challenges:

Speaking on this social taboo was a big challenge. In some schools the Principals jumped in to stop, even mentioning the word "Sexual abuse." There was a fear of misunderstanding and potential risk

of attacks by fanatics on the Awareness Team, particularly female teams. The malicious propaganda against NGOs was another hurdle and could have put the field staff at risk, especially in the two tribal districts Khyber and Muhmand. The schools in these two districts/ agencies are sparsely located,



and sometimes the Team went 30/40KM deep inside the narrow valleys touching Afghan border. At one instance in the Khyber Agency, our Team came to know in a far-flung narrow valley deep inside Bara Tehsil that the Head Mistress of the adjoining school was aware, of their visit to X school on Y date. However, there were no big challenges in District Kohat and Swabi, where Principals and Headmistresses/HeadMasters rather insisted on including their schools in the awareness campaign or giving it a priority.

How the challenges were addressed?

Creating the highest level of ownership in the district administration opened all the doors for the project activities. All district level officers of the respective offices/departments were categorically directed by their higher-ups to coordinate and facilitate the



intervention. The personal influence of DAC management in the district administration and personal contacts in the highest bureaucracy made things easy. Otherwise a typical no objection certificate takes months. Secondly, the joint presentation/ownership of the project by the Government of KP, US Embassy, and DAC subsided the negative propaganda against NGOs. The field visits in ex-FATA were arranged in consultation with Focal Persons, and the routes were changed every day. The Principals were alerted and taken into confidence to avoid any negative propaganda against the campaign. The religious minded principals/headmistresses of some schools were convinced by the project management and their peers around.



Lessons Learnt

Due to the sensitivity of the subject, it was imperative to depute only female staff (Master Trainers, Assistants, and Social Mobilizers) in all-female activities. This resolved the issue of communication and built the confidence of the teachers and children to speak up openly. The awareness-cum-capacity building followed the local dress code and avoided special outfits and gadgets so that the target groups own them, consider them as their own, and interact with them freely without falling into the inferiority complex. The Master Trainers and Social Mobilizers talked in local Pushto Language and used Urdu in a few places. This eased the communication of the message in an effective manner. It was very important to be aware of the local culture and norms, to avoid any untoward situation. The Master Trainers tried not to use foreign words to the possible extent.

Highest level of ownership in the districts was essential for smooth and successful implementation of the project. DAC took on board the District Nazim /Head of District Local Government and Deputy Commissioners, which greatly facilitated the activities. Daily feedback through WhatsApp group was an essential part of the awareness campaign, which created an environment of healthy competition and became a forum for the exchange of ideas, issues, experiences, challenges and above all inspiration for doing more and doing good. The performance of practical skits and narration of short inspirational stories were very effective for ice breaking and effective interactive awareness sessions amongst the students.

Being a very sensitive subject and owing to the envy existing for NGOs, especially in the tribal districts, the field activities were carried out with special care by following strict parameters of the subjects discussed. Besides, the routes were always changed to and from the field operations. The safety and security of children and the crimes of adultery were linked with the religious teachings, which increased the acceptance of the endeavors and culminated the possible chances of negative propaganda.

Findings

A vast number of children, particularly girls, are being continuously harassed and abused. The subject is considered a taboo. The children usually don't inform the parents or teachers due to fear of punishment or defamation and thus they suffer in silence. Mobile technology has increased the techniques and intensity of incidents of harassment and child sexual abuse, owing to the easy access it provides to the criminals to reach the children. Children often fall prey to the negative tactics of the offenders, due to lack of awareness and by not knowing the consequences of this act. Often, they are blackmailed once they either talk to or meet the abusers. Girls are withdrawn from schools after primary education due to the incidents of child abuse, which the parents know through media and local communities. Girls liked the awareness much more than boys did. They found it like as if their "Pressure has been Released". Few shared their sufferings and the tension and trauma they were undergoing. A significant number of boys were found affected. Some openly expressed their situation, that how they fall prey to the offenders and then how they are blackmailed.

The teachers highly appreciated the campaign. They felt encouraged to discuss and make the students aware about the subject, so far considered a taboo. They promised to repeat the awareness at intervals and in new classes wherever they are posted.

The village Councilors told stories of child sexual harassment and abuse and considered the endeavor as a most important contribution for the safety and security of the children. They expressed their resolve to spread the message in their respective constituencies.

The District Nazim Kohat and Swabi highly eulogized the efforts of US Embassy and DAC for creating awareness about such an important social issue. They extended all out support and personally attended the closing ceremonies of the training workshops held for the Women Village Councilors of their respective districts. They issued directions to the district managers of education, social welfare and Local Government and ensured possible cooperation by all the stakeholders. The Deputy Commissioners and Education Officers in the Tribal Districts Khyber and Muhmand also extended their fullest cooperation and facilitated the field campaign to be successful.

Way Forward/Demands of the stakeholders

Feedback from the stakeholders/target groups is overwhelming. The awareness workshops were conducted in 4 out of 33 districts of the province. 29 districts still need similar awareness campaign. Police play a key role in the investigation, effective trial and conviction of the criminals. Their capacity needs to be built in forensic investigation. Child Protection Committees (CPCs) under the Child Protection Units (CPUs) are dormant and need to be revived. Besides Deeni madaris and private schools are essential parts of the target groups and may be included.

Conclusion:

The project “Breaking the Silence: Creating a safer world for our Children” was need of the day. The menace of Child Abuse is wide spread and has affected a significant number children particularly girls. This gruesome crime was masked due to social and cultural pressure, which has now been brought to lime light. The issue was debated and discussed at different forums. The silence is broken. About 95% of 34,477 children would be saved from potential sexual assaults.

The children spoke up openly about the trauma they were experiencing, which they were unable to express to their parents and teachers due to the fears and stigma attached to this social taboo. The reception/approval from the target group was overwhelming across the board. The teachers poised to continue the awareness during their career. The WVCs showed resolve to spread the message in their respective communities and also help the victims. The senior politicians and official leadership eulogized the initiatives and demonstrated their commitment and concern through their all-out support. The general awareness through media and banners made it talk of the town. The District Police Officers showed their willingness to associate the Police Investigation Officers. They desired to get them trained in forensic investigation and ICT tools. The District Child Protection Units were reinvigorated and associated who are desirous of revival of the Muhallah/ Village/ Community level Child Protection Committees.

The intervention achieved its objectives and created very effective awareness in the target group. A larger number of affectees/potential affectees (children) were covered over and above the numbers initially envisaged. A strong will and resolve was visible against the crime in the society/target group, which will ensure the sustainability of the initiative and would get priority budgetary allocations and reforms in the public policy.

Annexures

1. Training Manual for Awareness and Capacity Building of the stakeholders.
2. Sample Contact List of Schools in District Swabi.
3. Sample Attendance sheet ...District Khyber
4. Sample Feedback Questionnaire.
5. Sample Awareness Banner-District Muhmand
6. Pictures Gallery by District
 - 1) Khyber Boys Schools

- 2) Khyber Girls Schools
- 3) Kohat Boys Schools
- 4) Kohat Girls Schools
- 5) Muhmand Boys Schools
- 6) Muhamand Girls Schools
- 7) Swabi Girls Schools
- 8) Swabi Boys Schools
- 9) Workshops with Circle Officers (Female)
- 10) Workshops with Circle Officers (Male)
- 11) Sample Banners
- 12) Swabi Capacity Building Workshop for WVCs
- 13) Kohat Capacity Building Workshop for WVCs
- 14) Khyber meeting with Focal Persons

Pictures Gallery

Few pictures are presented here so that to give an idea of the scope of the project and engagement of the stakeholders.

Girls Khyber





Boys Khyber



Kohat Girls









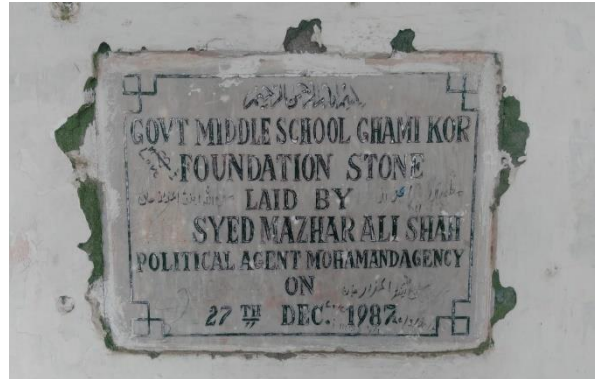
Kohat Boys



Muhmand Girls



Muhmand Boys





Swabi Girls







Swabi Boys









Workshops with Circles Incharges



Capacity Building Workshop for Women Village Councilors Swabi



Capacity Building Workshop for Women Village Councilors Kohat.



Misc: Meetings with Stakeholders



Banners

بچوں پر جنسی تشدد

جنسی تشدد کی طرف مائل کرنے کے طریقے

1. لالچ، کھلونا یا اور کھاتے کی چیز دینا
2. لفٹ دینا
3. اکیلے گھر میں دست درازی کرنا
4. فون پر جنسی باتیں کرنا
5. ایمر جنسی کا کہہ کر ساتھ لیجانا
6. اکیلے میں بچے کے جسم چھونا

جنسی تشدد روکنے کے احتیاطی تدابیر

1. فوراً اپنے والدین یا اساتذہ کو بتانا
2. اکیلے کسی کے ساتھ نہ جانا
3. کسی کے ٹچ کرنے کی صورت میں زور سے منع کرنا
4. کسی سے جنسی باتیں نہ کرنا
5. کسی سے کوئی تحفہ نہ لینا

اپنے بچوں کا مستقبل محفوظ بنائیے

تعاون

ڈیولپمنٹ ایجنٹ آف چیئنج پشاور - عوامی بہبود کار خاں ادارہ
ضلعی حکومت خیبر اور امریکن ایگزیسیو اسلام آباد

بچوں پر جنسی تشدد کا تدارک
تربیت اور آگاہی پروگرام
ضلع کوہاٹ

خاموشی توڑیے - اپنے بچوں کا مستقبل محفوظ بنائیے -

تربیت اور آگاہی پروگرام

ڈیولپمنٹ ایجنٹ آف چیئنج پشاور - عوامی بہبود کار خاں ادارہ



Annexures.

Training Manual

Sample Attendance

List of schools...

Feedback Questionnaire