



AKRSP

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
(A Project of Aga Khan Foundation)



LSO -Youth Convention 2013

Empowered Youth – Empowered Communities



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CONTENTS

Acknowledgement.....	5
General Manager’s Message	7
Acronyms	9
Executive Summary	11
1-Introduction	13
1.1-Background	13
1.2- Objectives	14
1.3- Structure of the convention	15
2. Conference Schedule.....	16
2.1- Inaugural session.....	16
2.2- LSO Youth Session	18
2.3- Empowered Youth: Success Stories.....	21
2.4- Group Workshop.....	27
2.5- Partner’s Session	32
2.6- Concluding Session.....	36
3- Exhibition.....	38
4- Field Visits	39
5- Youth Declaration.....	40
6- Lessons Learnt, Recommendations and Conclusion	42
7- Evaluation.....	45
Annexes	47
A-Convention Program	47
B-Delegates’ list.....	50
C-Media Coverage	58



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We would like to express our gratitude to the colleagues at the AKRSP Core and the Regional Offices who contributed to the completion of this report in one way or other.

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Since its inception, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) has focused its efforts on building social, economic, and human capital of the communities of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral by fostering communities' own institutions called Village and Women Organization (V/WOs). These grassroots 'institutions of the people' were formed in a period when the society of GBC was undergoing a massive change, brought about by the construction of Karakoram Highway (KKH) and abolition of traditional governance structure in the region. These grassroots institutions proved instrumental in preparing the communities to embrace change and benefit from the opportunities offered by evolving socio-political, economic and administrative context of the region.

Over the years, grassroots VOs/WOs felt the need to create umbrella organization to work on issues of common interest that were beyond the scope and capacity of individual VOs and WOs. As a result, many VOs and WOs across GBC started to form informal V/WO clusters while others federated into formal local development organizations at the valley and sub-valley levels. To support this institutional progress of V/WOs and to help these institutions benefit from emerging opportunities created by decentralized government systems, AKRSP in 2004 started to support the formation of Local Support Organizations (LSOs) as representative and downwards accountable apex bodies of V/WOs and other CSOs at the union council level.

The basic purpose of LSOs is to enable V/WOs, CSOs and YOs to articulate their development needs in a participatory and consultative manner and engage with the formal sectors of the state and the private sector as well as other development partners to address those needs. AKRSP, as part of its institutional development mandate, is supporting the LSOs and their constituent organizations by building their capacities to take part in their own development.

As part of its support to LSOs, AKRSP has been convening a series of LSO conventions since 2008. These conventions play an important role in bringing together key stakeholders of civil society, local communities, elected representatives, public sector organizations and the private sector representatives to deliberate upon development needs, sharing experiences and chalking out future path for local development. The third convention named 'LSO Youth Convention 2013' was held in Skardu in November 7-9, 2013. It provided a great opportunity to the representatives from public, private and civil society institutions to deliberate on pro-poor, youth centric and gender friendly policies and joint programs. The Convention also offered an important platform to share and showcase the ideas and actions of youth supported through EELY programme, which is funded by Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD).

AKRSP continues its efforts to build the capacities of these LSOs and their networks to further strengthen LSOs as 'institutions of the people'. It will also ensure that LSO programs are more customized to the needs of their member communities, with downward accountability to base members. With enhance capacities and competence, AKRSP envisions LSOs to play an increasingly effective role in voicing and representing the needs of their communities and providing missing services related to community infrastructure, social protection, food security, enterprise and community-based financial services through creating strong linkages with government departments and other private services providers.

We sincerely hope that such conventions continue provide opportunities to the communities and their institutions to share their knowledge and experiences to promote peace and prosperity in the region and would contribute to human development and national goals.



ACRONYMS

AKDN	Aga Khan Development Network
AKCSP	Aga Khan Cultural Services Pakistan
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
AKPBSP	Aga Khan Planning and Building Service Pakistan
AKRSP	Aga Khan Rural Support Program
ASF	Agri-Support Fund
BACIP	Building and Construction Improvement Program
BCDF	Baltistan Culture and Development Foundation
BEDAR	Baltistan Enterprise Development & Arts Revival
BFA	Baltistan Farmers' Association
BIEMS	Booni Institute of Education and Management Sciences
BoD	Board of Directors
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBSG	Community Based Saving Groups
CCDN	Chitral Community Development Network
CESVI	Italian, "Cooperazione e Sviluppo", Cooperation and Development
CHEPS	Chitral Heritage and Environmental Protection Society
CHIP	Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Program
CIADP	Chitral Integrated Area Development Program
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CSDI	Construction Skills Development Initiatives
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DFATD	Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
EELY	Enhancing Employability and Leadership for Youth
EYDP	Early Youth Development Project
FG	Federal Government
GAD	Gender and Development
GADO	Garamchashma Area Development Organization
GBC	Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral
GOLD	Golden Jubilee Development Organization
HRMP	Habitat Risk Management Program
ICDP	Integrated Chitral Development Program
ID	Institutional Development
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
IRM	Institute of Rural Management
KADO	Karakoram Area Development Organization
KIU	Karakoram International University
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LEP	Livelihood Enhancement Project
LSO	Local Support Organization
MTI	Mobile Training Course
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PCSIR	Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
PEMP	Project Execution and Management Program
PPP	Public-Private Partnership

QASADO	Qurumbara and Shandur Area Development Organization
RMP	Regional Program Manager
RSPN	Rural Support Program Network
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development
SDP	Sadpara Development Project
SEP	Skills Enhancement Program
SMADP	Shishkoh and Madaklasht Area Development Program
SPACE	Shigar Palace and Camping Eden
SRSP	Sarhad Rural Support Programme
SWF	Students' Welfare Foundation
TADO	Terichmir Area Development Organization
ToT	Training of Trainers
UBR	Universal Birth Registration Project
UC	Union Council
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VO	Village Organization
WASEP	Water and Sanitation Extension Program
WO	Women Organization
YCLAN	Young Community Leadership Alumni Network
YCLDP	Youth Community Leaders Development Program
YIP	Youth Internship Program
YMCA	Youth Micro Challenge Award
YOs	Youth Organizations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AKRSP has been convening a series of LSO conventions since 2008. These conventions provide a unique opportunity of an open forum for development partners and stakeholders of AKRSP to come together to reflect upon the current programs and projects, share success stories and discuss future prospective. The first convention with the theme of “Joining Hands Today for a Better Tomorrow” held at Karakoram International University (KIU) in 2008, provided a platform for the LSOs to share their experiences and develop future plans and strategies for sustainable development. The convention also chalked out a framework for public and private sector and civil society organizations to work together on shared goals.

With the theme of “Fostering institutions of the people by the people”, the second convention was held at Intermediate College Hatoon, District Ghizar in 2009. It mainly focused on the role of AKDN in development in partnership with the LSOs and village based institutions.

The third LSO Convention was titled ‘LSO Youth Convention 2013’. It was held on October 7 to 9, 2013, in Skardu Baltistan with the theme “empowered youth, empowered communities”. The conference aimed at promoting mutual learning among you, establishing partnership with public and private organizations, and bringing forth a joint declaration calling for youth centric, pro-poor and participatory development and gender equality. The convention brought together major stakeholders including youth groups, youth entrepreneurs, LSO representatives, development partners, Youth Organisations (YOs) and local government authorities working for youth directly and indirectly.

The convention became a representative gathering with participation of 194 delegates from GBC. There were three major components of the convention: conference, exhibition and fields visits. These components provided opportunity for sharing ideas and success stories, showcasing products and services, learning from socio-economic and cultural development sides.

Mr. Abdul Malik, General Manager AKRSP, welcomed the delegates. In his speech, he highlighted the objectives of the convention with particular emphasis on the role of LSOs for youth engagement and development. He expressed his gratitude for the support from the federal government and the government of Gilgit-Baltistan. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, the founding General Manager of AKRSP honored the convention with his presence and narrated his story about entering into the development arena and initiating AKRSP program in GBC with the formation of Village and Women Organizations. He also highlighted the importance of LSOs in creating employability and leadership opportunities for youth today. The Commissioner Baltistan, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Skardu, and Assistant Commissioner (AC) Chitral appreciated the role played by AKRSP in the development of their regions, and assured government’s support to the AKRSP and its willingness to partner with LSOs in furthering the developmental agenda at the local level.

The LSO representatives from all the three regions gave detailed presentations on their initiatives including social mobilization, linkages with government and private sector, engagement with youth and women, internal and external resource mobilization, challenges and lessons learnt and perspectives and suggestions for future work.

Success stories under various components of EELY program initiated for youth development by AKRSP in partnership with LSOs, youth bodies and government and private sector

organizations were presented. These success stories were reflection of all the three regions and related to the areas of Youth Community Leaders Development Program (YCLDP), Youth Micro Challenge Award (YMCA), and Youth Internship Program (YIP) and youth employability initiatives.

In partner session, the partner organizations of AKRSP apprised the audience of their work through presentations. In their presentations, the partners highlighted the success and lessons of their programs and projects implemented in partnership with EELY program, LSOs, and Youth Organization. The partner organizations included Aga Khan Planning and Building Service (AKPBS) - Pakistan, Al Zahra Foundation, Baltistan Culture & Development Foundation (BCDF), Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Program (CHIP), Jubilee Life Insurance Company Limited, Gilgit-Baltistan Gilgit-Baltistan Youth Department, and USWA Education System Gilgit-Baltistan.

Alongside of the conference, an exhibition was arranged which continued for the first two days. The LSOs and young entrepreneurs jointly displayed and presented their achievements in the form of LSO reports, case studies, youth plans, sustainability plan, pictorial evidences of activities, colored leaflets, and products developed under employability component for cross learning. In addition to the conference and exhibition, field visits were arranged for the delegates of Gilgit and Chitral, which aimed at providing an opportunity for the delegates to see and learn from some of the key development work in Baltistan region. Some public and private institutions and programs focusing on social, cultural and economic development were selected for this purpose and the delegates appreciated visit to those places.

The convention agreed upon and adopted LSO Youth Declaration. The declaration emphasizes the need for sustaining peace, pluralism and social harmony among various segments of the society through dialogue, exposure, learning, experience sharing and greater involvement of various sections of the society including the youth. The declaration calls for participation and integration of young men and women including the differently able and vulnerable youth into the mainstream development process through skill enhancement, leadership development and encouragement in community service at V/WOs, LSOs, and in public and private sector agencies. For effective, efficient, responsible and sustainable delivery of services of LSOs, the declaration underlines the importance of strengthening transparent, accountable and participatory mechanism and downward accountability to the base members. Also, LSOs need to work with the government to develop and implement youth policies, promote self-employment opportunities and mainstream women into development and political process.

The delegates expressed their satisfaction about the overall proceedings of the convention. The evaluation of the convention shows that 38% of the delegates ranked the convention and its proceedings as excellent, while 48% ranked it as good. The remaining percentage of delegates either did not express their views or remained neutral. The evaluation also brought important feedback from the delegates for further improving different aspects of the convention and making them more educative, informative, interesting and up to the needs of the delegates.

1- INTRODUCTION

LSO convention has become a series of mega events that AKRSP has been holding since 2008. The first LSO convention was held in 2008 at Karakoram International University (KIU) in Gilgit which was followed by the second LSO Convention in 2009 at Federal Government Intermediate College, Hatoon, district Ghizer. Over 400 LSO delegates from GBC participated in both conventions, besides representation from LSOs across Pakistan. The third LSO Convention was held from 7 to 9 October, 2013 in Skardu, Baltistan. The third convention focused on youth engagement and employability; two important components of youth development program of AKRSP. Therefore, the convention was named as “LSO-Youth Convention 2013”, which was held in partnership with Local Support Organisations (LSOs) and with support from local government and civil society. This event was attended by 194 LSO’s and youth delegates from across Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral (GBC).

The underlying principle of these conventions is to generate hope, encourage dialogue, cherish pluralism, and promote self-reliance. Further they enhance community participation, boost local philanthropy and give opportunity for creative and constructive exchange of views among grassroots level community leaders, activists and youth, interface with public sector institutions, development and conservation agencies and relevant development service providers working in similar thematic areas in mountainous contexts.

In keeping with the previous conventions, ‘LSO Youth Convention 2013’ continued the process of community dialogue by fostering mutual learning and understanding, bridging the gaps across various section of the society, sharing experiences and forging partnership between LSOs, development/humanitarian organizations, public and private sector institutions in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral.

1.1- Background

Since its inception in 1982, AKRSP has pioneered facilitating the formation of Village and Women Organizations (V/WOs) as informal institutional set up at village level serving as receiving mechanism for delivery of public services and creating human, social, economic, physical and financial capital through partnerships and linkages with government and private sector and civil society organizations. For creating and facilitating enabling environment for V/WOs to aggregate their development needs and to foster engagement with public and private sector development service providers, AKRSP is supporting a second tier of community support organization called Local Support Organizations (LSOs). LSOs are union or federation of V/WOs and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and groups at union council/valley level.

Characterized by participatory development, legal identity, professional management capacity, activist-led governance structure and a strong base of voluntary community organizations at the core, LSOs aim at providing the public and private sector service providers an interface to effectively mediate, channelize and sustain the local development initiatives and service delivery functions on an ongoing basis. Furthermore, these organizations support their member organizations in effectively working together to address issues of poverty, micro-economic growth, gender disparity, and youth engagement at local levels.

Although, there has been improved development collaboration among public sector, development partners and local organized communities in GBC during the last three decades, there is still a huge potential for furthering the development collaboration and coordination at micro and meso levels through innovative Public Private Partnership (PPP) models. One of the areas needing attention is the existing gaps to a considerable extent in terms of involving multi-stakeholders in public planning discourses, and forging partnerships and coordination among development actors: public and private sectors, and civil society organizations with implications for duplication of efforts, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainable outcomes of development process.

After the 18th amendment of the constitution, the governments in GB and KP are committed to devolving authority to local levels, however, notwithstanding the fact, sheer absence of the local government system for last many years has created significant gaps in social service delivery. The widened gap between needs and expectations and delivery of services has resulted in frustration, hopelessness, distrust and lack of ownership and participation in governing their own affairs by the communities in both rural and urban areas. The prevailing scenario has affected the young men and women the worst by putting them at the risk.

Through its Enhancing Employability and Leadership for Youth (EELY) project, AKRSP, with support from DFATD (erstwhile CIDA) and AKF, has been working with LSOs and local stakeholders to increase engagement of youth as productively contributing members of GBC. To this end, EELY is focusing on two complementary components: youth employability and youth participation as leaders. The former seeks to enhance professional skills development and enterprise support services, while the later works to promote engaged and empowered youth by enhancing youth participation in community and civic activities and institutions. Also it works to build the capacity of local institutions including LSOs to create enabling environment for youth development and youth decision makers through dialogue, multi-stakeholder forums, and knowledge sharing and public-private partnerships.

The LSO conventions play important role in achieving these aims by bringing together all the important stakeholders, including elected representatives, line agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector and intelligentsia, and provide an open process for addressing common problems and developing recommendations and suggestions based on the actual needs and aspirations of the local communities, young men and women and other stakeholders in GBC.

1.2- Objectives

The objectives of the convention were to;

- 1) promote mutual learning, knowledge sharing and exchange of ideas and experiences between grassroots level community activists, young men and young women, development practitioners, academia and policy makers;
- 2) provide an opportunity for the public sector institutions, civil society, local support organizations, youth organization and private sector organizations to establish linkages and partnerships;
- 3) propose joint resolutions and recommendations to strengthen public private partnerships in promoting youth centric and pro-poor development, and gender equality at all level of development.

Based on the objectives, the convention was projected to result in:

- 1) enhanced capacity, exposure and understanding of participatory development, youth entrepreneurship, gender and poverty related issues and solutions; and
- 2) improved collaboration between public, private and civil society institutions for pro poor, youth centric and gender friendly policies and joint programs.

1.3- Structure of the convention

Structured around conference, exhibition and field visits, the three days convention was designed to be a multi-stakeholders participatory dialogue process, focusing on the potentials, needs and aspirations of the communities and youth groups and matching it with the products and services offered by various development actors to achieve common objectives for an ultimate improvement of quality of life of young men and women and the people of GBC.

2. CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



2.1- Inaugural session

The day started with the registration of participants. The inaugural session was presided over by Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, the Chairman Rural Support Program Network, and Mr. Abdul Qamar Shahzad, the Commissioner of Baltistan was chief guest. The panelists of the session included Mr. Inayat Ullah Faizi, AKRSP Board Director, Mr. Abdul Malik, the General Manager AKRSP and Mr. Mohammad Saleh, Assistant Commissioner Boni, Chitral. The convention started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Syed Shafiq Shah Rizvi. It was followed by Naat Sharif recitation by Ms. Nadia. On behalf of the participants of the convention and the communities of GBC, condolences were offered for Mrs. Shoaib Sultan Khan who passed away sometimes back.

GM, AKRSP, Mr. Abdul Malik, in his speech welcomed all the participants at the convention and especially thanked the guests. He expressed his gratitude to the government of Pakistan and GB for their continued support to AKRSP for the last three decades. Welcoming Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan at the convention and paying rich tributes to his services as the founding GM of AKRSP, Mr. Malik said that Shoaib Sultan's dynamic leadership, devotion to the work, his participatory approach to development and his particular affinity to the region have been major players in the success of AKRSP in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. He also underlined the services rendered by Shoaib Sultan. His principles of development were committedly followed by AKRSP management, and particularly the workers and community activists, who with their concerted efforts have established more than four thousand organizations of men and women in the region of GBC.

Highlighting the importance of LSOs and their role, Mr. Malik said that these organizations are local support organizations owned by people. The main objective for establishing these organizations was to create linkage and collaboration with government organizations, AKRSP and other developmental organization. At the same time, the aim is to represent their member organizations, keep strong relationships with them and become the organizations of the people in the real sense. He said that currently there were 62 LSOs in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral passing through different stages in terms of growth and performance. The model started from Gilgit-Baltistan is being carried forward by other Rural Support Programs (RSPs) and currently in Pakistan there are more than 800 LSOs.

Expressing his views on LSO Youth Convention 2013, Mr. Abdul Malik said that this year's LSO convention is Youth convention, which aims not only to analyze LSOs work in general, but also to see how LSOs are working for youth and how youth are working with LSOs and how these works can be promoted while moving ahead. Further he elaborated that the convention will contemplate on three areas:

- 1) how to increase coordination with public and private sector organizations to promote and strengthen these collaborative works for youth development?
- 2) to increase employable skills in youth and how to integrate them in development process;
- 3) and how is coordination between these organizations and their members could be increased?

In his speech the Chair of the session, Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, dwelt on a number of topics. He narrated his career story starting from his stint in government's civil service, inspiration from the work of Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan and entering into development profession. The story went to tell about his joining AKRSP and undertaking the task of economic uplift of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral and initiatives on establishment of V/WOs. Vividly remembering those days, he talked about challenges and issues faced at the beginning followed by overwhelming success in the mission and the resultant recognition by national and international organizations. What he admired the most was the love and affection shown by the people of GBC and AKRSP's becoming a major player in the development in this area.

Expressing his views on the role of AKRSP, he said that it has become an institution for the people but its success will be completed when people have their own organizations like VOs and LSOs. Further, he said that when these organizations are in place, it will be easier for the government organizations to work with people as government organizations and resources cannot go to people individually.

Three Principles of Community Development

Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, while sharing his lessons learnt in the development sector especially from the work of Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan, said that the people who changed their conditions and came out of the shackles of poverty, acted upon three principles. The first principle is that one cannot do much individually, individually people are weak but when they come together and get untied they become strength and through that strength they can overcome the weaknesses. Even if the people are untied they need someone, male or female, who carry their organization forward. Secondly, there is much power in capital, and quoting Maulana Rumi, "Although money is not God, but it has two characteristics of God: it fulfills the needs, and it hides what needs to be hidden." When organizations are formed, money will be saved through them and that money will be for none but the members themselves. The third principle is that the greatest wealth of human beings is their own potential and capabilities and that need to be polished and taken full advantage of.



Regarding youth development, Mr. Khan said that instead of searching for employment, youth have to strive for gainful self-employment and they should be provided with support for that purpose. Regarding youth engagement in grass roots V/WOs and LSOs, he suggested that there should be "youth wings" under the umbrella of VOs or LSOs and they should be allowed to work independently. Elaborating the idea, he said that the needs and ideas of youth are different. Therefore, VOs and LSOs should not impose their ideas on them. V/WOs need to talk to youth about their capabilities for gainful employment and obstacles in utilizing those and how the obstacles can be removed. The solution reached at through this process will be relevant for gainful employment.

Mr. Abdul Qamar Shahzad, the Commissioner Baltistan in his speech lauded the services of Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan for eradication of poverty and economic well-being of the people. He shared the story of how AKRSP started its activities in his village and remembering the initial phase, he said that when Mr. Khan asked his villagers to form village organization, they were suspicious of his intentions as to whether organization. Few people joined the organization and many abstained from being part of it. With cooperation of some people, an organization was formed. On formation the VO, Mr. Khan asked local communities to identify some projects for the benefit of the villagers and prioritizing them in order of importance. A link road was identified as the first priority. AKRSP approved the project and work was started soon and completed within short span of time. This single link road led to building links roads to every household. At the same time, activities such as access to quality fruit and animals was gained, which were so far non-existent in the region. With the passage of time, those non-members of the village who were reluctant to join VO also started believing the sincerity of the purpose of AKRSP and joined the organization.

With the inclusion of people, the organization became a platform for the people who had conflicts with each other due to their sectorial, religious and ethnic differences. The sitting together resulted in respect for each other and supporting each other. Currently,

due to the LSOs, the problems and issues are resolved on the organizational level instead of going to SHO or magistrate. The LSOs are helping the government in maintaining law and order and in economic programmes on the one hand, and government finds it easy to work with LSOs on the other.

On behalf of the government, Mr. Qamar reiterated his support to the programs of AKRSP and extended his full cooperation to the LSOs in their initiatives.

2.2- LSO Youth Session

LSO Youth Session was chaired by Mr. Inayat Ullah Fiazi, Member of AKRSP Board of Directors while Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan was chief guest. The panelists of this session included General Manager AKRSP, an LSO and youth representatives from each region of the AKRSP programme area. Mr. Muhkamuddin, head of the LSO delegations from Chitral, Mr. Shahadat Noor from Gilgit and Mr. Nisar Abbass from Baltistan apprised the audience of the progress of their respective LSOs through presentation followed by question-answer session.

A glance at the progress of LSOs is given below:

i- LSOs in Chitral

Introduction: Chitral Community Development Network (CCDN), a network 15 LSOs, has 823 Village Organizations (VOs), 676 Women Organizations (WOs) and 221 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) under its institutional setup. CCDN covered 35,520 households in 19 Union Councils and overall coverage stands at 74% in the whole district. Thus CCDN represents one of the largest networks of organizations in the district. This project has enabled LSOs to strengthen its financial base, increase service delivery, develop partnerships and revitalize its member organizations.

Social Mobilization: In the context of volatile environment and sectarian, ethnic and religious diversity, the network has taken various initiatives for peace and harmony. These initiatives include but not limited to social harmony debate, school competition for awareness, peace committees, facilitation of government in communication for maintaining peace, and border surveillance system.

Resource Mobilization: During the last five years the network has implemented development projects/activities worth PKR 500 million. Around 20,880 households benefitted from the LSO based initiatives. These LSOs have established partnership with AKRSP, Chitral Integrated Area Development Program (CAIDP), Aga Khan Cultural Services Pakistan (AKCSP), Italian, "Cooperazione e Sviluppo", Cooperation and Development (CESVI), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Rural Support Program Network (RSPN). In order to reduce their dependency on external donations, LSOs are promoting and expanding their own source of income so that LSOs can deliver services to their communities without any interruption because of resource constraints.

For developing into self-sustained institutions, strengthening their organization's capacity and broadening financial base, 10 LSOs have developed their sustainability plans. Range of activities, including proposal writing and project designing, planning, financial management, record keeping, and leadership development, has further strengthened LSOs in the whole district.

Linkage with Government and Other Organization: In partnership with local communities, district government, national and international organizations, LSOs have implemented development projects worth millions.

Youth Engagement: LSOs started a series of dialogue process, involving all stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan for youth engagement in the district. As a part of youth development plans, 9 LSOs conducted Youth Population Assessment Survey covering



entire household of their jurisdiction. LSOs are conducting meetings at village level for the inclusion of youth and revision of bylaws of community organizations to ensure youth inclusion in the community leadership.

To build capacity of the target population, especially youth, the network organized social and resource mobilization trainings. So far 500 participants have benefited from it. Different youth specific activities such as survey, workshops in capacity building programs, sports and youth resource centers were administered. To address issues of unemployment, LSOs have initiated skill development program. These LSOs are also arranging trainings to develop entrepreneurial skills among youth.

Lessons learnt and Challenges: The practices of the network on the one hand, have effectively delivered services, while on the other these have provided important lessons for organizational learning. While delivering its services, LSOs faced different challenges. It is evident from the practices that LSOs are the best platform for social entrepreneurship and social service delivery. The importance of inclusion of youth and their role in LSOs has not only been felt, but also encouraged. For sustainability of LSOs, creation of non-financial resources and support from government has been regarded imperative. At the same time LSOs are also facing challenges like high community expectations, lack of financial resources and non-inclination of youth towards development activities.

ii- LSOs in Baltistan

Introduction: Baltistan region consists of two districts: Skardu and Ghanche. With the advent of AKRSP in the region, VOs and WOs came into being in late 1980s. In 1990s, these organizations were integrated into cluster organization followed by formation of LSOs in 2004. Currently there are 18 functional LSOs working in the region.

Social Mobilization: The areas of social mobilization include gender mainstreaming and youth engagement in development process, and lobbying and advocacy for positive change.

Resource Mobilization: 12 LSOs have developed sustainability plans and generated PKR 3.34 million to match with the Sustainability Support Fund (SSF) provided by AKRSP. Currently one LSO is successfully managing Community Investment Fund (CIF) and another is running internal lending. LSOs have successfully completed 20 projects of 77.97 Million PKR. For future, LSOs aim at development and implementation of a focused strategy for internal and external resource mobilization.

Linkages with the Government: LSOs have strong linkages with the government in the areas of law and order and economic programs. The reason for having strong linkages with the government is that it finds it easy to work with community organization like LSOs. Also, local administration encourages the problems and issues of the people to be resolved at organizational level instead of going to SHO or magistrate.



LSOs Membership Base

S#	District	Total UCs	UCs with LSOs	Member VOs	Member WOs	Member CSOs	Total households	Member households in LSOs
1	Skardu	31	12	749	407	56	33254	17346
2	Ghanche	15	06	101	104	42	14982	6797
Total		46	18	850	511	98	48,236	24143

Youth Engagement: LSOs conducted baseline surveys in 8 UCs, organized 8 sports events, trained 10 young community leaders. Further, 5 Seminars on GB Governance Order 2009 and local government structure/system were organized, 16 youth inclusion seminars, 11 youth micro challenge awards, five speech competitions, three trainings, four workshops and celebration of earth day were organized.

As future direction of the LSOs, initiatives will be directed towards inclusion of youth in LSOs and they will be inducted into BODs and General Body of LSOs. On VO/WOs level, it will be ensured that youth is not only given membership but also leading roles. Opportunities will be provided to engage youth in meaningful activities through positive youth development by establishing research, resource and vocational centers, and innovative and effective self-employment and leadership programs will be initiated. For women empowerment, women activities will be streamlined at Union Council level and they will be encouraged to participate in development process. There will be efforts to explore possibilities for collaborative initiatives with local government and private investors for relevant services and programs to benefit all segments of the society.

Lessons Learnt and Challenges: The key lessons from the programs and activities of LSOs have resulted in the understanding that the credibility and sustainability of VOs/WOs and LSOs can be increased by following democratic process and good governance, while project oriented approach in VOs/WOs and CSOs diminishes the true essence of participatory development. Further, effective financial resource mobilization can only sustain the long term impact of the program. Youth can lead VOs/WOs and LSOs in a better and efficient way and educated and sincere BOD with better exposure lead to better outputs in LSOs.

Some of the challenges identified in the work of LSOs are lack of communication facilities in remote UCs, religious resistance in some UCs, conventional and cultural barriers for gender equality and youth inclusion. In addition to that, there are challenges of financial constraints, lack of working relationship with government departments, and lack of ownership as an organization. Other challenges include high community expectations, inactive participation of women in BoD and GB, and lack of participation on the part of youth in civic activities.



iii- LSOs in Gilgit

Introduction: The Gilgit region consists of four districts: Gilgit, Ghizer, Hunza-Nagar and Astore. Currently, the region has 32 LSOs. Out of these LSOs, 12 have maturity level of five years, 12 below five years and 8 are newly established. In governance of these LSOs, democratic norms are practiced. Annual General Body meetings are held regularly and leadership change takes place each year with no provision for more than three terms of the office bearers.

Social Mobilization: Through social mobilization, LSOs have successfully reactivated 125 V/WOs and established 250 new ones. Internal conflicts in some V/WOs have been resolved with the help of LSOs and border issues between villages have been settled. Advocacy for positive change is an ongoing component of LSOs work.

Resource Mobilization: At capital formation level, savings in V/WOs have increased. It is worth mentioning that V/WOs in Danyore have increased savings from 20 to 40 million. VO Gulkin has 15 million in circulation as lending, while VO Ahmedabad 6.5 million, WO Singal Kai Phary 6 million, and WO Central Danyore has 4.5 million in lending. Resource mobilization includes internal and external resource mobilization. Internal resource mobilization includes charging for V/WO audit services, and running social enterprises (IT centers, ECDs, crafts Jubilee Life Insurance, membership fee, V/WO registration, endowment fund). External resource mobilization includes grants/funds from Government departments/Elected Representatives (which include funds for organizing different events such as Babaghundi Festival, Shamman Festival, Spring Bloom Festival, and provision of LSO Office Building); and international and national organizations - USAID, UNDP, Focus, Jubilee life, Muslim Aid, Marfi Foundation, Iqra Fund.

Linkages with Government and other Organizations: V/WOs own LSOs as their organizations and public sector organizations have started working and having partnerships with LSOs in various areas and LSOs as community institutions, have established trust with the government.

Youth Engagement: The LSOs have ensured participation of youth, both male and female, in their activities. There is allocation of 36% quota for youth in the Board of Directors, where gender inclusion is 41%. Youth membership in Village Organizations (VOs) and Women Organizations (WOs) is 36%, while in Hilbosh, it is highest, 75%.

For youth development, various youth development plans have been developed and implemented including civic engagement (anti-drug committees), skill development (JICA partnership and women skill center), sports and recreation (women sports), enterprise creation, career counseling and education, and adolescent development.

Challenges and Future Course of Action: The key areas of challenge for LSOs are issues of sustainability, staff turnover and capacity, and mobile youth.

The future plans of the LSOs include short as well as long term plans. The short term plan focuses on organizational capacity building, strengthening volunteerism, provision of social services (education, health, Social mobilization, audit of V/WOs), and mediation facilities (advocacy, liaison, conflict management), internal income generation (enterprise activities, audit and membership fee), and resource mobilization from and through government, donors, and private sector. Long Term plan aims at becoming representative and responsive community institution, trusted by different stakeholders for watching over public and private sector programs to ensure quality, transparency, fairness in resource distribution.

2.3- Empowered Youth: Success Stories

The next component of the LSO youth session was youth success stories that included presentations by Youth Micro Challenge Award (YMCA) recipients; presentations by Young Community Leadership Alumni Network (YCLAN)/Youth Internship Program (YIP); experience shared by entrepreneurs and gender mainstreaming story, group workshop and presentations by partners on youth/community development related initiatives. YMCA was represented by Dr. Shujjat Hussain, Mirza Hussain and Rahmat Ali Jaffar. Presentations on behalf of YCLDPA/ and YIP were presented by Zarina, Bibi Rashida, Sabeen Zehra and Rehana. Entrepreneurs shared their experiences included Abbad Rahim, Imtiaz Alam and Lal Bano, while gender mainstreaming story was presented by Javed Akbad and Nazia Akbar.

Some of the presented success stories are given below:

i- Gilgit Region

A- Youth Internship Program (YIP)

Situation: It is well established fact that the education and training of youth should give them exposure to real world situation so that they will have the skills and knowledge necessary for being able to successful in their professional careers. Internships play an important role in giving exposure to youth of the real world situation and to build their capacities accordingly. Unfortunately, the youth of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral remained deprived of opportunities for internships as there were very few or no avenues for them to look forward to. With the increasing competition and demand for skills in job market as well as in self-employment, it has become vital to engage youth through internships to develop and enhance their capacities and life skills respectively.

Program/Activities: To address these problems, AKRSP under EELY project initiated three months long Youth Internship Program (YIP). It aims at providing opportunities for educated young men and women to apply their academic knowledge in organizational context and get hands-on practical experiences to enable them to become more employable and take leadership roles in any organization and make better career



choices. Through the training, the interns were given exposure to organizational culture, practical field work with professional staff, hands-on training sessions on key soft skills and provided mentoring support. The interns were placed in different thematic areas i.e. monitoring and evaluation, gender and development, institutional development, human resources, finance and market development at AKRSP's core office and regional offices in Gilgit, Baltistan and Chitral. The internship program was initiated with transparent mechanism of announcement, test and interviews followed by orientation and placement of the interns within AKRSP and with partner organizations.

Result: Under the YIP, 55 fresh graduate young men and women received training in the first cycle. As a result of the internship program, 65% of youth interns are currently employed, and remaining interns are actively searching for job. Monthly income of the employed interns ranges from 10,000 to 30,000 PKR. The Interns show increased confidence that their professional skills have been enhanced through YIP.

Evidence: In order to assess the learning of the interns, a pre and post evaluation was carried out. Comprising 10 questions, the evaluation form asked the participants about AKRSP, its operations, EELY project, and some basic concept about Institutional Development (ID), and Gender and Development (GAD). In pre internship evaluation the participants had rated their skills in the above mentioned areas on a very low scale, while post internship evaluation shows the skills on a higher scale demonstrating the interns' increased capacities and effectiveness of the program. The interns were asked to rank the administrative aspects of YIP and majority of them ranked it as the best. Regarding their supervisor, and preference to work with AKRSP and encouragement of other youth to be part of YIP, an overwhelming majority replied in positive. What the interns most liked about YIP was its organizational culture, exposure to practical/professional life, sharing of ideas during discussions and meeting, mentoring and timely feedback from the supervisor and collaborative/cooperative work environment. However, less favored areas were stipend, duration of the internship, timetable, training/workshops and field visits.

One of the participants, Husna Akbar, shared her views about YIP in these words: "Had I not been part of YIP I would never have qualified for the position of Communication and Behavior Change Officer with a community based saving group at AKRSP Chitral." For Rashida what YIP meant is, "The youth internship program for me was an opportunity to put my academic training on gender and development into practice and study certain gender issues in real world situation. Mamtaz summarizes his learning from YIP in these words, "I realized the change that YIP brought in me while appearing in an interview for the position of Communication Officer at ECC/UBR. I felt, I know more; I was more confident in facing the questions and clear on youth related issues as well."

B- Youth Entrepreneurship Development Training

Situation: The importance of having skills and capacities for self-employment cannot be over emphasized and at a time when the employment opportunities in public and private sector are shrinking in Gilgit-Baltistan. The access to and opportunity for self-employment is not only desirable but also need of the hour. At the same time, access and opportunity will be wasted when there is no knowledge and proper skills to avail them, which is a common phenomenon in the youth of Gilgit-Baltistan. On the other hand, lack of economic and employment opportunities in Gilgit- Baltistan is a cause of major concern for the youth, and their potentials may not be fully realized productively, if there are no opportunities for them to build their capacities in areas such as entrepreneurship and self-employment. AKRSP and Karakoram Area Development Organization (KADO) both are endeavoring to build capacities of local communities for socio-economic wellbeing of the area. Under employability component of EELY, AKRSP supported KADO to train youth male and female in business planning and management with the facilitation of Golden Jubilee Development Organization (GOLD), LSO.

Program/Activities: In partnership with the AKRSP, the Youth Entrepreneurship Development Training (YEDT) was implemented by Gold LSO and KADO. The training focused on individuals, communities and institutions. The objective of the six days training



session was to; provide opportunity to youth to be self-employed, to educate youth to follow business rules and steps and to teach them manage business effectively and efficiently. AKRSP held dialogue session with the GOLD LSO and sent selection criterion and registration forms to each V/WO. The trainers followed an interactive methodology to involve participants in the process.

The first day of training included business sensitization workshop, which was followed by four days class room lectures and interactive sessions on theoretical knowledge, brainstorming, group works, sharing experiences, home based assignments, and multimedia presentations. The last two days focused on practical demonstration. The participants were sent to the markets to undertake business initiatives they had planned during the planning stage. This helped them to translate theoretical knowledge into practice, whereby being pushed into a challenging environment by the announcement of special grants for those who will earn maximum profit on provided seed money (each participant was granted Rs. 1000).

Results: Through the training program, 46 youth were sensitized and 26 trained. Out of the total participants, 90% were female. As a result of the training, 15 men and women (60%) have established businesses in sectors such as tailoring, handicrafts, caterings, and trading. Monthly income of the newly entrepreneurs ranges from PKR 7000-10000. The participants of the training have gained knowledge and understanding of the strengths of group synergy, real business challenges, replicable model for entrepreneurship promotion and the importance of access to credit.

Evidence: The level of knowledge and skills developed through the training were assessed through one of the components of the activities, which was one day field work and later on presentations by each participant. All participants were required to engage in action-oriented tasks to demonstrate their learning. In other words, each trainee was a part of buying or selling of commodities or being part of other business processes. Upon successful undertaking of the task, each participant had to present their business activity through a recap of the theoretical material to the trainers and other participants. It was evident through the assessment that the level of knowledge, understanding and practical skills of the participants have been substantially enhanced by the training. Another practical evidence of increased knowledge and skills is start of new businesses after the training.



ii- Chitral Region

A- Enterprise Development Center

Situation: Entrepreneurship did not get attention in Booni particularly and other remote rural areas of upper Chitral generally because of the cultural adherence of the people towards traditional occupations and economic activities. This lack of attention is prevalent to the extent that the youth of the region could get no awareness and mentoring for entrepreneurship. Thus, lack of entrepreneurial competencies among the people of Chitral directly affects the new generation especially young men and women. This phenomenon has led the youth towards job seeking. The space is filled by people from other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) who established a good number of ventures in Chitral, while local people lagged behind and this situation necessitated endeavors for closing the gap.

Program/Activity: Enterprise Development Center, a subsidiary of Booni Institute of Education and Management Sciences (BIEMS) undertook the task of bridging the gap by taking initiatives for training youth for entrepreneurship. To build its capacity for the task, in 2011, the center availed Training of Trainers (ToT) on Enterprise Development under EELY project of AKRSP and qualified as master trainer. For further capacity building, the trainer attended a seven days training program organized by International Finance Commission (IFC) named Business Edge in Islamabad with the sponsorship of EELY and to fulfill the needs of rural communities, it partnered with Smile Pakistan for training module focusing on rural entrepreneurship.

Results: The center has started demand driven trainings in the rural areas. As many as 190 youth have been trained so far including 90 young women in eight batches of training

sessions. The center has also entered into partnership with different development agencies such as LSOs, AKRSP and Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) for conducting EDTs in different areas. In addition, the center has also learnt about the key issues and challenges. The center has realized that business plan, howsoever effective may be, remains just a dream in absence of capital for starting up business - a problem which is very common in Chitral region. Traditionally, the youth has been more risk averse and hence no business can be started as business can be established without taking risks.

Evaluation: For effective assessment of trainees, the center uses multi-pronged strategies such as pre & post evaluation of trainees, using LSOs platform for monitoring purposes and telephonic tracking. However, being in the nascent stage the center has also been facing numerous challenges such as absence of proper mechanism for following up and tracking, which makes it difficult to reach out to some of the participants once they complete the training. Mobility is yet another issue. Remoteness of the region is another major challenge because it creates hurdles in timely dissemination and reception of information from far flung areas.



Gender Mainstreaming: Case of a Young Pair

This is the story of a young pair, Mrs. Nazia Akbar and Mr. Javed Akbar, who belonged to remote village of Lone, participated in the Gender Training of Trainers (ToT) organized in Islamabad by AKRSP. Before the training, Mr. Akbar said that he never lent credence to the household chores of his wife as productive but taken himself a sole breadwinner for the family. Like most of the people, he also believed in certain stereotypes and practices and even considered as something as part of religious practice. Even regarding the word gender he says, "I took as something related only to women and foreign agenda against our societal values". Coming from the patriarchal society, Mrs. Nazia was of the view that women were born to serve others and had no rights of doing anything on their own. They both lived under one roof, but they never shared their feeling because of their own preconceived notions of the role of men and women.

The participation in the Gender Training of Trainers (ToT) of AKRSP was a new beginning for them in terms of their understanding of gender as equality and respect to each other. From the seven days' training, they learned about Islamic prospective on gender, its importance in development and analysis of gender related concepts. Highlighting the importance of training for them, the pair said that the training increased their confidence level and readiness to participate in the development process. Through the new acquired knowledge, they learn to have firm belief in equality of men and women and their equal role in the development of the society.

Mr. Akbar, while sharing his views on the aftermath of training says, "I am giving greater importance to role of women in our society and whenever I get some time, I help my wife in the household work". Adding to that, Mrs., Nazia says, "She never felt as stronger as today, only for the reason that her partner understands her more than ever before. Their matrimonial relationship has taken a new shift as they both of them enjoy doing their tasks and feel respect for each other.

The pair shows its commitment towards disseminating the knowledge and sharing its experience with other young couples around. For this purpose, both Mr. and Mrs. Akbar show their readiness to provide services to local support organizations and other civil society organizations to benefit the larger segment of population.

B- Chitral Heritage and Environmental Protection Society (CHEPS): Save the environment for youth

Situation: Climate change and environmental protection has become one the biggest concerns in the world of today. The United Nations (UN) and other international organizations together with countries and nations from developed as well as developing world are focusing their energies and resources towards environmental protection. Being a part of the world, our region is also not immune from a global phenomenon like climate change. In the particular context of Chitral and Pakistan in general, it is imperative for the

government, private sector, civil society organizations and community based organization to play their role to protect the environment.

In the current scenario, youth are showing little interest in nature and conservation of their environment despite the fact that future belongs to them. If youth are not mobilized and sensitized, the ongoing climatic condition will present a bleak future for them. If the trend of environmental degradation continues unabated and no steps to engage youth in conservation and environment is taken, then the rich natural resources will become mythical tales of the bygone era for them. Without preparing youth to take ownership of environment, it seems a distant hope to reverse the tide of the environmental degradation. Thus situation demands for programs and projects that could specifically target youth and prepare them to take full ownership of their environment.

Activities: In its endeavors to focus on youth for environmental protection, Chitral Heritage an Environmental Protection Society (CHEPS) won Youth Micro Challenge Award (YMCA) of EELY project of the AKRSP to sensitize youths towards ongoing environmental conditions. For this purpose, activities have been designed in a way to communicate the message “Save the Environment” to larger section of the population. These activities involved Environmental Youth Conference, Youth Chain of Signature Campaign, Youth Environment Court and Green Guards which were implemented through engaging youth.

Results: At the district level, conference on environmental conservation was arranged, which passed a joint resolution to protect environment of Chitral city. The conference was attended by 106 youth from all walks of life. In the signature campaign, a total of 2200 students from different schools and colleges participated to conserve forest. To develop understanding of youth on environmental laws and regulations, youth environmental courts were administered wherein 85 young people participated. To promote plantation, 8 green guards have been established and as many as 19,500 trees have been planted in the district.

Evidence: The effectiveness of the programs and activities of CHEPS is evident from the fact that for the first it won an award to work on issue that remained out of focus for a long time. In addition to that, through the track record of its success, CHEPS has forged partnerships with the AKRSP, SRSP, Hashoo Foundation and local government.

iii- Baltistan Region

A- Baltistan Farmers Association

Situation: Traditional agriculture in Baltistan is characterized by sustenance farming. Such type of agriculture leaves little room for farmer to look beyond the vagaries of seasons and plan for long term. Increase in population in tandem with decreasing farming lands, the labor applied to the land is in excess. This situation has led to unemployment. In order to gain maximum benefit from farming land and reduce unemployment there is a dire need to change the approach from subsistence farming to commercial farming.

To address this issue, Baltistan Farmers Association (BFA) with its mission to increase income and employment opportunities for youth of Baltistan is working in partnership with the LSOs. Through awareness, technical and entrepreneur training, the organization assists the farmers and builds their capacities in improving farming systems for quality production and higher earnings. In addition, the organization has access to national and international market.

Program/Activities: The organizational structure of BFA consists of a 16 members’ general body including nine farmer representatives and seven entrepreneurs. The management committee consists of president, general secretary and finance secretary.

For mobilization and sensitization of youth farmers, the organization focuses on three major areas such as input, product and market level interventions. Input and product level interventions consist of training in pre-harvest management in which the farmers are

provided awareness and training in value chain for apple and apricot. At these levels the trainees are provided with the knowledge on a new variety of apple (Fauji), new variety in apricot (Afghani Ambari), pest management and introduction to farming in subsistence to commercial farming. The third phase of intervention is market level intervention, in which the farmers are trained in marketing and entrepreneurship. The trainees are provided with opportunity of participating in exhibition and events, such as Metro Expo, Hyper Star, and Punjab Farmers Association's commercial farms. Also, display centers have been established at tourists' points, such as Kachura lake, Airport, Shigar Fort and Khaplu Fort.

Results: On mobilization and sensitization front, over 160 youth farmers have been sensitized in 6 LSOs. 137 youth were trained in pre and post-harvest management. 20 Youth were trained in market and entrepreneurship. 5000kgs of apple were marketed to Metro.

Evidence: One of the biggest evidence of the effectiveness of Baltistan Farmers Association is its registration under companies Act-1984. The introduction of new variety of apple and apricot, their quality processing, and access to national and international market also signifies success in training programs of BFA.

B- Student Welfare Foundation Gilgit-Baltistan

Situation: In the backdrop of high prevalence of Tuberculosis (T.B) and other incidences of Hepatitis B & C among the population of Baltistan and need for taking precautions for HIV-AIDS necessitated to think and work for protective and preventive measures. Attention to this issue became even more urgent due to the negligence on the part of the government authorities and other relevant departments.

Program/Activities: The Students' Welfare Foundation Gilgit-Baltistan (AWF GB) in partnership with Local Support Organization (LSO) Shigari Khord, availed the opportunity of Micro Youth Challenge Award (MYCA) of EELY project of the AKRSP and undertook the project "Preventive Measures Awareness against Tuberculosis (T.B), Hepatitis B, C and HIV-AIDS." SWF GB is a team of young enthusiastic volunteers, students, doctors, engineers, lawyers, and some highly educated social workers. The SWF GB team collected useful material and data from internet, books and research journals on the subject and developed a multimedia presentation. To share information with the communities, they reached out to community centers, schools, mosques, Imam bargahs and homes of the LSO's office bearers.

Shahi Khyber Youth and Students Organization

Shahi Khyber Youth and Students Organization was formed in 1987 and registered with SKIDO. The vision of the organization is to provide an enabling environment and platform for youth to nurture a healthy mind for a healthy society. In keeping with the vision, the organization aims to develop a knowledge/skilled based society through education friendly environment and information technology, and prepare youth for future leadership

The thematic areas of the organization are youth development, education, sports and social welfare and economic development.

To address the pressing issues of youth, the organization availed the opportunity of YMCA of EELY program. For this purpose, the organization conducted a needs assessment on what can serve the multifaceted needs of youth. Based on the assessment, the organization developed a proposal and applied for YMCA and was awarded Rs. 40000. With the award, youth was mobilized and the seed money was used to generate resources. The efforts on resource mobilization generated a substantial amount of Rs. 400000 including donations from Chinese donor, individual donors, community, Hasho Foundation and AKES.

From the available resources, the organization worked its plan of establishing youth resource center. Once established, the resource center became a hub of healthy activities for youth, which did not only result in further mobilization of youth, but also enhanced the organizational capacity and employment opportunities for the youth.



Results: The one and half month long program targeted 30 small villages of the UC Shigari Khord and conducted 25 public sessions with full participation of women and children. In the sessions for females, the number of participants ranged from 20 to 58, while in male sessions the participation remained relatively low. The team delivered all the information about the signs, symptoms, laboratory tests, treatments, and ways of transmission and prevention of the diseases. They motivated the local population for screening and vaccination of Hepatitis-B, which is available in the hospital and market. In addition, they educated and encouraged parents to vaccinate each and every new born child and emphasized it as a religious and moral duty of parents. With the help of quotations from Holy Quran and Hadiths several misconceptions about health practices were clarified. It was right time for the team to highlight other health related issues, including smoking. As a long term tool to eradicate diseases and poverty, the importance of girl's education was much emphasized and it was brought home to the participants that their attitudes, priorities and lifestyle changes play significant role for a sustainable society. To cope with the electricity shortage during the presentations, the team used electric generators backup and made sure to explain everything at multi-media screen. Through this process, they noticed that even illiterate women and children could understand their message.

Evidence: To give the participants an opportunity to share their views about the program an evaluation/feedback form was used. It was noticed that majority of the participants was illiterate and also there were children of age 5 to 13. In order to elicit accurate response the questions in the form were asked in local languages and sought feedback through show of hands by the participants. Overall project was highly appreciated by the participants and they were fully satisfied by what they had learnt.

Dr. Inayat Ullah Faizi, in his address as the chair of this session quoted words of Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan and said that sustainability of LSOs will come through collectivity, pluralism, capital pooling and priority setting. He said that it is not enough to give a fish each day for someone who is in need of food, rather they should be taught how to fish. The same stands true for LSOs. They should not be given fish, what they need is to learn how to fish. He urged the youth to look for respectable self-employment and employment for their fellow youth rather indulging in job seeking.

The chief guest of the session, Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan in his address emphasized the need for LSOs to be financially viable for sustainability and said that without financial resources it is difficult to get along the plans for sustainability. He appreciated the LSO of Danyore for being functional and having 40 million in savings. He said that LSO and V/WOs should work in respective areas and there should not be overlapping in functions of LSO and V/WOs.

Quoting some lessons learnt from Akhtar Hameed Khan, he said that when everything else seems frustrating one should not be part of that frustration, rather they should make an island of their own. Elaborating the idea, he cited the example of rural support programs which are thousands in number and serving hundreds of thousands of people, which are islands on their own. He stressed that if something does not happen, it does not mean that anything cannot happen, one has to look for different alternatives but there should be support from other people as individuals cannot do much and therefore, institutions should be in place.

Elaborating the support of the people, he said Gilgit-Baltistan has been free from terrorist activities as the people do not want that to happen. He appreciated the people of GBC, and the professionals and activists of AKRSP. He further said that the progress has been made possible through their efforts. Mr. Khan said that though people have skills and they are like rough marbles, all they need is to get chiseled and polished and the organizations like AKRSP do this work for the people.

2.4-Group Workshop

One of the important components of the LSO youth session was group work-shop. These groups of men and women worked on different themes. The themes were introduced and explained by PM-ID/EELY LEAD Mr. Ghulam Amin Beg. The themes were Strengthening



Social Mobilization, Youth Participation and Employability, and Public Private Partnership and three groups each of men and women were assigned to work on these themes. In participatory approach, the group members participated in the activities and discussion of the group and conducted comprehensive analysis of their respective themes, looked into potential, identified challenges, shared lessons learnt, viewed future prospects and make recommendations for appropriate measures.

The groups' work on various themes is discussed below at length.



Theme 1: Strengthening Social Mobilization

A. Key achievements

Men's Group	Women's Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BCDF is targeting uneducated and dropout youth and trained 10 youth in wood craft and also build capacities of 100 women ● SMADP formed 6 youth organizations to bring youth into decision making process of youth and also supported 30 youth for skill development training ● Youth Survey was conducted in Shigari Kalan to assess youth population status in their area ● LSO in Thalay carried out a baseline survey in the area and 50 % of the V/WOs have had youth and also framed conflict management committee to address issues related to youth inclusion and initiated environment campaign involving youth, education committee was formed to address education related issues and to arrange meeting with the education department ● To control illegal forest cutting and poaching, the LSO of Haramush organized campaign through mobilizing youth ● In Garum Chasma area of Chitral GADO, LSO, conducted youth inclusion meetings at village and women organizations and also changed bylaws of the community organizations to ensure youth participation ● The LSO of Chundra, conducted survey to assess employability status and what kind of skills they require ● YCLDP members in the Gilgit region reactivated 11 community organizations and also conducted 11 sessions and trained 224 young people ● The LSO of QASADO revised bylaws of the grass root organizations to increase youth participation and reactivated dormant organization through youth inclusion ● In the Astore area, LSO, survey was conducted to assess overall population status of youth and trained youth for the purpose of engaging productive activities and arranged electrician trainings for uneducated youth and for youth inclusion arranged conference in their area ● In Dubani at Bagrot, formed Bagrot Student Organization and also arranging training on career counseling and one supported student secured first position in KIU Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducted workshops for strengthening V/WOS (participants from KLSO) ● Trainings conducted for effective record keeping (KLSO) ● Proper registration system exists (KLSO) ● PUNAR LSO strives to strengthen the linkages between V/WOS and government agencies ● Proper board meetings have been conducted (ICDP) ● Monthly meetings have been conducted with representatives of V/WOs by LSO (ICDP) ● We are striving to change the concept about Al-Zahra Foundation that it is not a religion or sect based organization, and is working for peace and harmony of the area, has helped the orphans and facilitated the marriages of needy couples, has been conducting workshops and conferences to give awareness regarding effective utilization of modern technology (participant from Al-Zehra Foundation) ● LSO has formed new V/WOs and activated dormant V/WOs (TADO) ● Democratic process of selection has been followed in V/WOs and LSO (participants from Skardu LSO) ● Democratic process of selection has been followed and awareness campaigns have been organized for inclusion of youth and large number of youth have been included in V/WOs (BLSO) ● LSOs have regular interactions with V/WOs representatives and there is an effective dissemination of information from LSO to V/WOs and vice versa. LSO of Gojal and Chipursan are good examples(Participant from Hunza)

B- Key Challenges/Lessons Learnt

Men's Group	Women's Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are highly mobile and most of them live out of the district and busy in jobs hunt Lack of awareness among youth on importance of community organization and their role in development of the area Youth want leadership role in spite of the fact they have limited leadership capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information are not properly disseminated to V/WOs by LSO (TADO) In some LSOs there is an issue of transparency Capacity issues in women leadership(a participant from Skardu) Conventional leadership Resistance to women involvement in LSO (TADO) Financial restraints Elders discourage youth's involvement in V/WOs and LSO (BLSO)

Theme 2: Youth Participation and Employability

A. Key achievements

Men's Group	Women's Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor force survey has been conducted which captures youth aspirations and needs LSOs have developed Youth Development Plans Youth have established their own organizations (Youth Organizations) Youth are being mobilized for participation in community based organizations and this has yielded positive results in form of increased youth participation in general body membership, BoD etc Recreational and healthy activities are being arranged for different youth segments Youth are being provided with technical skills Youth are engaging themselves in enterprise generation and operations Youth are becoming part of association such as farmer's associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to ensure youth participation in development process base line survey for identification of various categories of youth like educated, uneducated, school dropout and special youth have been carried out Some of the LSOs have conducted awareness raising workshops with WOs to include youth in WOs, specially disable and marginalized youth Some of the LSOs have formed women led organizations Recreational activities for women, like debates, competitions, sports coaching camp, life skills and career counseling etc have been organized by the LSOs LSOs have also initiated small enterprises for young women, arranged several trainings on entrepreneurship and also financial support to school drop out to initiate small business

B- Key Challenges/Lessons Learnt

Men's Group	Women's Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are not being fully recognized and appreciated for their participation and leadership roles Youth remain mobile for fulfilling their life objectives which makes sustained inclusion into community based organizations a challenge. Whereas this mobility leads to increased incomes for them while they tap new opportunities Traditional perceptions of income generation still exist among youth such that majority of them seek for jobs Youth are not being provided sufficient career counseling Social mobilization to increase youth participation in CBOs is not being undertaken Youth related activity resources by AKRSP, such as implementation time duration and finance are very limited LSO capacity is weak compare to community expectations from them <p>Key Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our area is blessed with natural resources in such sectors as agriculture, gems, tourism etc. The large number of youth are an asset for the area that needs to be tapped and utilized fully Institutional structure in shape of CBOs exist in our area which provide interface for community segments and with outside stakeholders The trend of entrepreneurship is also displaying a steady growth Youth development is being incorporated as important component of mainstream policy formulation Development interventions and projects are increasing in scale in our area Opportunities for youth are emerging to harness financial support for establishing new enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time management Motivation Lack of awareness No mechanism for inclusion of special youth in WOs High expectations of youth from WOs Less acceptance of youth from elders due to lack of trust Social issues and mobility Dependency of women on men for decision making Lack of business plans Lack of financial resources Lack of marketing No access to banks

Theme 3: Public Private Partnership

A. Key Achievements

Men's Group	Women's Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Road repaired in collaboration with local administration by LSOs ● Contribution on Land compensation by both government and Local Support Organizations ● Environmental protection in partnership with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ● Construction of waiting room in hospital for women by the joint partnership of private and public organizations ● Construction of water storage tank in partnership with agriculture department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LSO arranged competition event with collaboration with government education department in Chitral ● Community's strike with support of LSO against dysfunctional government school and hospital, which became functional after strike (In Ranga, Shigari Kalan Skardu) ● Government worked with LSO in disaster management in 2010 (Nomal, Gilgit) ● Formation of committee in collaboration between civilians and Government

B- Key Challenges/lessons learnt

Men's Group	Women's Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Government has its own priorities and rules ● Legislation problems ● Communication barriers ● Political influence ● Trust deficit between Public and Private Organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of awareness/ orientation about LSO especially in females. ● Acceptance of LSO by Government ● Proper utilization of funds ● Women participation in festivals organized by Government and private sectors <p>Key Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can use Government institutions, e.g. Infrastructure ● Local setup at UC level (LSOs) and at District level ● Human resource ● LSO network

2.5- Partner's Session

The session started with Mr. Muhammad Saleh, Assistant Commissioner Chitral in chair, and Yasmin Karim, PM Gender as moderator. The panelist included Yasir Hussain, DD Tourism; Wazir Aejaaz, BCDF; Didar Panah, USWA; Mehreen Imtiaz, Al-Zahra Foundation; Muhammad Baqir, CHIP; Fida Hussain, AKPBS, and Manzoor Karim, JL-Sihat Hifazat.

A brief profile of work being done by the partner organizations is given below:

i- Aga Khan Planning and Building Service (AKPBS), Pakistan

The vision of AKPBS is to enhance the quality of life of the target populations with reference to their planning and building related living conditions. In keeping with its vision the AKPBS is working in areas such as capacity for quality construction (human/material resource), non-engineered building practices, seismic vulnerability, indoor air pollution, fuel insecurity, un-comfort buildings: insulation against cold & damp safe water, sanitation, and health and hygiene. To address the aforementioned issues, AKPBS initiated programs such as Safe Water & Sanitation (WASEP), Improved Living Conditions (BACIP), Training and Capacity Building, and Seismic Resistant Construction, which have significantly contributed to address the issues.

The Water and Sanitation Extension Program (WASEP) has reduced the occurrence of diarrhea by over 60%. 70% of the beneficiaries report that WASEP has increased access to education, and disposable income as well as improved women's health.

By use of its products the Building and Construction Improvement Program (BACIP), there has been reduction in wood requirements by 30-60%. It has also reduced Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) by over 50%. Further, it provides guidelines for the adoption of Thermally Efficient Construction codes and standards.

Under the Seismic Resistant Construction program, the Habitat Risk Management Program (HRMP) and Project Execution and Management Program (PEMS) components work on physical facility assessment and improvement of existing buildings, construction of buildings and guidelines for the adoption of safe construction building codes and standards.

Through Training and Capacity Building program, projects such as Skills Enhancement Program (SEP), provides on one hand Mobile Training Course (MTC). It resulted in completion of 93 courses. So far over 6,063 villagers have been trained. On the other hand, through Construction Skills Development Initiatives (CSDI), 348 craftsmen have been trained in skills such as carpentry, seismic safe construction, plumbing, masonry, electric wiring etc. These trainings have increased the income of approximately 70% of all trained craftsmen.

In response to the disaster of 2010, AKPBS,P's initiatives resulted in heating and cooking facilities in over 40 IDPs camps/villages including 612 washrooms, 18 water systems including filtration units, 30 village level water schemes, wood stoves/floor insulation to over 1000 IDP families and shelter for 1000 families including WASH facilities.

The achievement list of AKPBS,P includes construction of over 800 school rooms, 45 health facilities, girls hostels, higher secondary schools, Professional Development Center (PDCN), restoration of 900 years old Baltit Fort, about 1M Sq. ft of seismic resistant quality construction, safe drinking water in about 300 villages, over 50,000 home improvements and 1035 shelter homes for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).



Young Community Leadership Alumni Network: Chitral

Youth development is an essential feature of a development process for sustainability. In Chitral region, youth development and youth leadership have been missing links in the development process, as a result, youth could not have exposure to favorable and conducive environment, where they could fully utilize their productive skills and knowledge in the development of the area. Thus a gap has been created between older leadership and young people. This situation has marginalized the youth in terms of their development process.

AKRSP Chitral under its EELY program addressed this issue and started its Young Community Leadership Program (YCLDP) to prepare youth for leadership positions. The objective behind the program was to develop a cadre of community based trainers and mentors to foster development of young community leaders at grass roots level so that they can effectively lead community institutions. For this purpose youth were identified by LSOs for participation in the YCLDP. After selection, the participants got intensive, four weeks classroom training in Karakoram International University (KIU) in partnership with Institute of Rural Management (IRM).

The alumni have trained 180 participants on participatory development, presentation skills, leadership, social entrepreneurship and Y/V/WOs formation and importance. 45% of the trainees were young women. To Transfer their knowledge to local people, the trainees shared objectives of YCLDP to seven LSOs general body and BoD. The alumni have six LSOs in youth development plan and have also taken initiatives in reactivation of community and youth organizations in the district.

From the alumni's follow up it is evident that they are actively involved in mentoring of youth. They have successfully reactivated district youth forum and celebrated international youth day along with other youth organizations of the district. Due to their sensitization, youth are participating in different civic activities.

ii- Al Zahra Foundation

Established in March 2010 by a group of educated women belonging to various sections of the society in Gilgit-Balistan, Al-Zehra foundation is working on the basis of “self-help.”

The objectives of the organization include creating peace and harmony, empowerment of women and youth through conferences and enhancement of positive tendencies, bringing awareness about social issues and promoting Islamic moral perspective and better understanding of the Holy Quran, saving youth from the negative effects of social networking, helping poor and needy and making arrangements for their education and marriage and supplying food items in Ramadan, and to counter negative publicity aimed at spreading hatred in the society of GB in some section of media.

Since its inception the organization has undertaken various programs and projects. In collaboration with AKRSP, the organization arranged bilingual essay writing on social issues in GB and also held award giving ceremony for the services of women as role model. Ikram project is working for support and education of orphans. Collective marriages of 18 needy couples were arranged in the first year of the establishment of the organizations and 28 in the second year. For inter religious harmony seminars were arranged. From 12 to 17 Rabiul Awal week of harmony is observed and conferences were held on Hazrat Zehra (A.S). The members of organization visited hospitals and jails to support the poor and needy, and distributed gifts among them. For empowerment of youth and participation of children, debates, speeches and quizzes were arranged.

iii- Baltistan Culture & Development Foundation (BCDF)

BCDF was established in 1998 under Social Welfare Act and reincorporated under Societies Act in October, 2002. BCDF were in partnership with Aga Khan Cultural Services Pakistan (AKCSP) from 1998 to 2000 with a mandate to own and manage local heritage resources in the public domain. From 2001 to 2010, the organization partnered with Swiss Agency for Development (SDC) for increase in the productivity and profitability of MSEs and to build BCF as sound organization.

With a vision of a developed society in which cultural heritage is preserved and people are gainfully employed, the organization’s mission is to contribute to socio economic wellbeing of people through revival and promotion of cultural heritage and indigenous resources.

Its BEDAR program components include: wood craft model enterprise, apricot oil model enterprise, gems development and resource center and wool fabric action research.

Wood craft model enterprise has successfully been working in areas, such as transferring in-danger art/skills to young artisan-lattice/carving, training 120 apprentices, generating 42 direct and 200 indirect jobs and greenwood research (introduction of seasoning technology, commercial viability of green woodcrafts demonstrated, replaced forest wood with farm-grown wood, enhanced income to growers), establishment of association of woodcrafts enterprises Skardu (AWES), Woodcraft Model Enterprise (WME) replicas, and the formal Training Institute in Baltistan.

The successes of apricot oil model enterprise include commercial viability of apricot oil business demonstration and introduction to value addition in the natural resource. In addition, training was organized for more than 70 women growers at seven supply centers and they were trained in picking, nut-cracking, storing and trading. Similarly, three replicas/businesses of AOE established and apricot oil was confirmed as exportable item (regular export to ILA-Spa, England).

Gems development and resource center’s endeavors have resulted in organization of key gems players at “BGMA” and “KGMO”; development of linkages of gems traders with national/international gems market; establishment of a resource center, including a small training unit in gemstone processing market information system, and training of 40 participants including 10 women in value addition/gems processing.



To its credit Wool Fabric Action Research has successfully transferred spinning/weaving art to young generation; training of 14 Men and 30 women; demonstration of commercial viability through establishment of small weaving unit and production and marketing of woolen products.

In collaboration with AKRSP, Wool Fabric Action Research program completed wool spinning training in Shagri Khurd LSO for 10 women (special persons), spinning training in Hussainabad and Shigari Kalan in collaboration with LSO for 20 women trainees and used production of yarn as raw material in BCDF weaving units. AKRSP and greenwood collaboration resulted in three months training for 20 participants in furniture making and carpentry, completion of two months training for women in ECD material development and wood carving, and two months training for 20 women in basket weaving and shaq making.

iii- Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Program (CHIP)

CHIP envisions an aware and organized society capable of realizing its own development and works towards that end with the mission of enabling individuals and organizations to make more effective and efficient development efforts through the provision of value-led Human and Institutional Development (HID) services.

During 2005 – 2007 the organization worked on the project of rehabilitation and inclusion of persons with blindness and low vision. 89 Persons with blindness and low-vision were rehabilitated from 32 Villages of Skardu. Eight local training and resource centers established with eight CBOs. Further, 8 men and 8 women volunteer master trainers were trained in orientation, mobility and activities of daily life.

During 2008 - 2011 the organization facilitated 224 Persons with disabilities through CBR Approach (CBR Matrix) and built capacity of 12 partner CBOs and established accessible LTRCs. Further, the organization promoted inclusive education, trained teachers in ITMs, and made government and private schools accessible. The organization worked on bringing awareness about prevention, rehabilitation and inclusion of PWDs and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities and enhanced skill and established enterprises.

For the period of 2012 to 2015, various projects are underway including projects for health, education, livelihood, social inclusion, and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Youth development is another area where the organization is working for empowerment of youth through their inclusion in decision making, providing them awareness and education, creating opportunities for sports and leisure, building their capacity, enhancing skills through trainings and giving access to employment.

iv- Jubilee Life Insurance Company Limited

The representative of Jubilee Life Insurance Company Limited apprised the participants of the convention about the Sehat Hifazat Micro Insurance Scheme for Gilgit Baltistan. For this product LSOs are the policyholders of group insurance with Jubilee life on behalf of the villages (villagers are the insured lives). LSOs' sub-organizations (Village/Women's Organizations) will be responsible for awareness creation, mobilizing, pre-enrolment process (minimum 50% of House Holds per village), enrolment process (data collection), premium collection and distribution of insurance certificates/cards.

The product is available to everyone without discrimination of race, sect, and religion. It includes inpatient hospitalization plan for everyone together with all the medicine during hospitalization. Further, it includes X-ray laboratory investigations, doctor fees, bed charges, and operation (surgery) charges. Inpatient limit is up to Rs.25, 000 to 35,000 for each individual. With regard to the premium, it is PKR 2,000 for each family of 2-5 members and in case of more than 5, additional Rs.300 for each of the family members. The product requires no age limit and it has provision for free insurance of new born baby till expiration of insurance card. Life insurance of Rs.25, 000 is for family head who is a bread winner and falls in the age group of 18-60. The product also consists of one outpatient consultation voucher for each member of family.



The product will not have coverage of pregnancy and pregnancy related issues, psychiatric illness, patients getting discharged on the same day for day care surgeries, family planning (tubal ligation), chronic eye disease (cataract) and dental, cosmetic surgeries, patient admitted for some observation, pre anesthesia assessment in the OPD and pre-admission laboratory investigations.

v- Youth Affair Department Gilgit-Baltistan

Gilgit-Baltistan Youth Affair Department aims to create an enabling policy environment for economic, social and political empowerment of youth and provide clarification about their rights, entitlements and responsibilities.

The youth policy will respond to the needs and issues of youth of age group of 15 to 35 years. Youth living outside Gilgit-Baltistan will also be taken into account for addressing issues related to them. There will be special emphasis on development of vulnerable and female youth. The salient features of the policy can be viewed at www.gbyouthpolicy.pk and www.facebook.com/gbyouthpolicy.

In keeping with youth policy, the Youth Development Center, Gilgit will have state of the art skill development and training facility; 50 bed hostel with 5 training halls, youth resource center and audio-visual rooms. Youth will be provided technical skills on plumbing, welding, gems cutting and polishing, fruit processing, hospitality management, tour guides and carpentry.

The Chief Minister Self Employment Scheme of the Gilgit-Baltistan government has started small interest free loans to support small scale entrepreneurs. The Youth Affair Department GB is implementing this project in collaboration with a service provider organization. The amount of money through this scheme is utilized in the form of a revolving fund to give out small interest free loans over a period of 5 years for small start-up businesses and existing businesses which need capital to grow further. The total funds provided by the government is Rs. 100 million in the first year. It will be revolved over the years resulting in creation of employment opportunities for thousands of people.

In partnership with EELY project of AKRSP, the Youth Affairs Department GB has started Youth Internship Program (YIP) for youth. Initially the internships are being offered for three months, where fresh graduates and post graduates are preferred. Selection of the interns is based on a transparent system. The interns are trained in various areas in professional environment and also provided with PKR 10000/= per month as remuneration.

vi- USWA Education System Gilgit-Baltistan

Center for Educational Development, Skardu was established in 1994. The vision of USWA is education for all and to gain dynamic prosperity of society with moral sanctity and human dignity.

Currently the organization is running 50 schools and 5 colleges. Important milestones of USWA from 1994 to 2103 include emphasize on access to education, establishment of friends educational and medical trust, capacity building program, Center for Educational Development (CED) and focus towards access, quality, relevance and sustainability of education.

The key success areas of the organization include developing partnerships, initiation of four years Early Childhood Education (ECE) program with formative assessment, continuous professional development, alteration in assessment system (Blooms Taxonomy), exciting learning opportunities (SLOs), focused on skill development, life skill program, project work and educational exhibitions, scholarship for students and teachers, quality staff with benefits, better admission trend and quality outcomes.

2.6- Concluding Session

The partners' session marked the end of the LSO Youth session which was followed by the concluding session. The concluding session was attended by Mr. Raja Fazal Khaliq, Deputy



Commissioner of Skardu, Baltistan, as chief guest, Mr. Inayat Ullah Faizi as chair and one LSO and youth representative from each region, Deputy Regional Program Manager (DPRM), PM GAD and RPM-G as panelist.

The chief guest visited exhibition area with the senior staff members of AKRSP. Later on, Prof. Inayat Ullah Faizi, AKRSP board director, presented gifts to him. The RPM Gilgit region, in his speech, welcomed the chief guest and participants and shared objectives and conclusions of the convention. LSO delegation heads from each region shared their concluding remarks. Mr. Ahsan Danish was nominated for presenting the Convention Resolution- Youth charter, which was agreed upon by the delegates of the convention.

Award distribution was another important component of this session, which was facilitated by PM Ghulam Amin Beg. There were four categories of awards including best youth presenters, best stall holders, education stall holders and best LSOs. Best youth presenter award was won by Javed and Nazia, Mirza Hussain and Imtiaz Alam who stood first, second and third respectively. The first, second and third winners of stall holders were Kalash Festival, Hina and Nayab, and Malika Carpet respectively. Educational stall holder award went to USWA Educational System. The three LSOs, awarded as best LSO are: Al-Karim LSO Taus Yasin, District Ghizar, Thalay LSO, Thalay Dagboni Ganche and Upper Torkhow Development Network (UDDN) LSO of District Chitral. Ahsan Danish and Qandeel Zara were given awards for their responsibilities on the stage for the last two days.

In his address, the chief guest, Mr. Raja Fazal Khaliq, Deputy Commissioner of Skardu, Baltistan, appreciated holding of the convention in Skardu and lauded the efforts of AKRSP for development of communities in GBC. He also underlined the importance of youth development and gender mainstreaming. He reiterated his support for the endeavors of AKRSP and LSOs.

Mr. Inayat Ullah Faizi, chair of the session, in his address laid great emphasis on gender mainstreaming. He said that revelation of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) to the Quraish of Makkah, which was extremely biased against women, is a reflection that Islam wanted to eradicate gender based violence. So there is no reason for being apologetic about gender mainstreaming. He called the current times as the time of competition and to survive in such atmosphere, there is need of partnership among the youth, civil society, public and private organizations and synergies with government and international organizations.

The session came to conclusion with vote on behalf of AKRSP by DRPM.



3- EXHIBITION



In parallel with the conference, LSOs, Partner Organizations and enterprises exhibited their products and services and showcased their work at stalls and booths in the exhibition area. The area was open for the delegates and guests from outside were invited. The delegates showed keen interest in the exhibition and asked questions of their interest from the representatives at the stalls and booths. The quality and standard of work of the exhibitors and the host organizations was appreciated by the guests.

The exhibition continued for the first two days. LSOs and youth jointly presented their achievements in form of LSO reports, case studies, youth plans, sustainability plan, pictorial evidences of activities, colored leaflets, Micro Challenge Award (MCA) and YCLDP transfer ideas, and products developed under employability component of cross learning.

Market Development (MD) section led the arrangements and ensured participation of key enterprise groups and entrepreneurs from the region.

LSOs from each region brought their profiles and activities in pictorial form along with other displaying material, including charts, brochures, panaflex to the exhibition.



4- FIELD VISITS

Apart from the conference and exhibition, one of the salient components of the convention was field visits for the delegates from Gilgit and Chitral. The purpose of the visit was to provide an opportunity for the delegates to see and learn from some of the key development work in Baltistan region. The delegates were divided into different groups based on sectors, gender and area-wise interests for logistic reasons.

The institutions and sides selected for visits were the following:

Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR): PCSIR is a well-established agriculture complex, with processing and training facility. The visit was a good opportunity for LSO delegates to have information and knowledge and explore possibility of collaboration.

Baltistan Culture and Development Foundation/Baltistan Enterprise Development & Arts Revival (BCDF/BEDAR): BCDF/BEDAR is a community based organization, mostly working on enterprise based initiatives including woodwork, apricot oil extraction, fabric weaving training, and gems cutting and polishing.

SADA LSO Hussainabad: SADA LSO is the first LSO in Baltistan. It has undertaken a number of initiatives partnerships, including a recently established fruit processing unit and vocational center.

Sadpara Development Project (SDP)/Sadpara Dam: The delegates visited SDP office and also saw Sadpara Dam area.

Shigar Fort and Community School: To have an exposure to the role of culture in development, and town planning efforts in rapidly urbanizing towns, the LSO representative took the opportunity to visit the restored Shigar Fort building and community school in Shigar.

Evening Gala Event: A joint dinner program was arranged for the delegates at SPACE (Shigar Palace and Camping Eden). This event provided the delegates with the opportunity to learn and appreciate the culture, cuisine, hospitality, artistic traditions and talents of Baltistan.



5- YOUTH DECLARATION

Before giving the detail of the LSO Youth Declaration 2013, let's recall the declarations of the previous LSO convention in 2008 and 2009.

While emphasis in LSO Declaration of 2008 has been on participatory development approach in public policy and funding, the declaration calls for creation of a permanent support system for LSOs by AKRSP/AKF and government and also underlines the importance of legislative protection for strategic resources of GBC. The declaration considers Public-Private Partnership (PPP) essential for poverty reduction, mainstreaming women and social development into public planning cycles and the same if true for combating emerging global threats such food insecurity, climate change, disaster risk management and social and sectarian harmony. The declaration realizes that a virtual network of LSOs should be created aiming at sharing information, experiences and knowledge, and joint efforts for advocacy and lobbying.

LSO Convention 2009 aspires for communal harmony, peace and pluralism and strengthening capacities of all segments society by involving them in development process. For effective policy dialogue and advocacy with government, knowledge and experience sharing, the declaration sees promoting network of LSOs at district and regional level as indispensable.

LSO Convention 2009 called for adoption of Multi-Input Area Development (MIAD) to aggregate demand for development inputs and services from AKDN, government and other agencies to improve quality of life and mediate all products and services through LSOs and LSOs networks at local levels. The declaration also calls for gender mainstreaming and youth participation in LSOs and development process. The declaration sees involvement of LSOs, UCs and other CSOs as imperative to promote local governance, transparency, accountability and participatory democracy.

The declaration also calls for social protection for poor and vulnerable, promote micro-economic activities, and develop mechanism for making LSOs financially sustainable.

The LSO Youth Declaration is a comprehensive detail of measures and mechanisms unanimously agreed upon by the convention for future course of action and sustainable development of communities and the region with particular focus on youth development and gender mainstreaming together with emphasis on taking on board all the stakeholders whether in public or private sector. The declaration stipulates as the following:

1. Promote and strengthen inter-community dialogue, exposure and learning events and cross learning and sharing of experiences in order to sustain peace, pluralism and social harmony between various segments of the society and in preventing conflicts at local and regional levels by involving youth, civil society, women

media and intelligentsia in the development processes, and to support national integration goals;

2. Promote youth-led and youth-serving organizations to enable youth and youth groups to realize their dreams and enhance equitable participation and leadership skills of young men and young women;
3. Life skills programs in collaboration with educational services providers and youth led and youth serving organizations in order to equip youth with coping strategies and soft skills;
4. Strengthen self-initiatives of youth and youth groups through encouraging youth-sub groups or youth wings within V/WOs and LSOs and promoting networking at district and regional levels for knowledge and experience sharing and effective policy dialogue and advocacy with public sector and policy makers;
5. Promote active partnerships with public and private sector agencies, especially with elected institutions and line departments at union, district and regional levels through i) joint identification of needs, ii) joint village and UC level planning and development coordination and information sharing;
6. Develop plans for inclusion of differently-abled/special young men and young women in V/WOs and LSOs as active beneficiaries and in decision making and lobby and advocacy with the government to enforce the allocated quota set by the government in letter and spirit;
7. Strengthen transparent, accountable and participatory mechanisms by following the golden principles of the social mobilization (promoting honest activist as leaders, participatory decision making and clean financial management) in LSOs and V/WOs to increase downward accountability of LSOs to base members, increase household coverage and inclusion of youth, poor and special persons in V/WOs and LSOs as active beneficiaries and active members;
8. Work in partnership with government to develop and implement youth policies and plans and mainstream youth in development processes as activists, leaders and change agents;
9. Promote self-employment opportunities for young men and young women and strengthen business and social entrepreneurship development at local and regional levels;
10. Promote policies, processes and plans to mainstream women into development and political processes, especially focusing on young and educated women
11. Develop mechanisms and actions to make LSOs financially sustainable through self-initiatives, local resource mobilization and self-reliance and making LSOs products and services relevant, efficient and effective through collaboration and resource sharing with each other and linkage development with government

6- LESSONS LEARNT, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

A- LSOs: Lessons Learnt

- It is evident from the practices that LSOs are the best platform for social entrepreneurship and social service delivery.
- The importance of inclusion of youth and their role has not only been felt but also encouraged by LSOs.
- For sustainability of LSOs, creation of financial resources and support from government has been regarded as essential.
- The credibility and sustainability of VOs/WOs and LSOs can be increased by following democratic process and good governance
- Project oriented approach in VOs/WOs and CSOs diminishes the true essence of participatory development
- Effective financial resource mobilization can only sustain the long term impact of the program
- Youth can lead VOs/WOs and LSOs in a better and efficient way and educated and sincere BOD with better exposure lead to better outputs in LSOs

B- Recommendations

Strengthening Social Mobilization

- 1- Sub Groups of youth within Village and Women Organizations should be formed and its members ought to come from V/WOs. Separate committees/sections/body within LSOs should be formed for that purpose;
1. Youth should be directly engaged in implementation of youth related programs. Targeted/focused approach for youth should be adopted and there should be legislation/bylaws for youth inclusion, and their equal participation in LSOs activities should be ensured
2. Capacity should be built for participatory decision making and women leadership
3. Democratic process of selection should be followed in V/WOs
4. Proper mechanism should be developed for effective resource mobilization
5. Proper communication structure should be followed to minimize the communication gap between V/WOs and LSO

Youth Participation and Employability

6. Strategy needs to be developed which clearly defines the relationship and functions of YOs, V/WOs and LSO among themselves and with other entities

7. Effective mechanism needs to be developed and placed at LSO for selection of program beneficiaries
8. Skill development centers must be established in GBC
9. AKRSP shall increase the scale of entrepreneurship development program
10. ECD promotion is a key element for lifting up the educational standing of youth
11. LSO should develop plans for inclusion of differently able youth in WOs
12. Quota system should be introduced i.e. changes in bylaws of organization to ensure youth participation
13. Awareness sessions regarding the need and importance of youth in WOs should be held for the youth as well as parents
14. Youth centers should be established in order to address the burning issues of youth and also psychological issues of young women
15. LSOs should develop linkages with government and other organizations to create employment opportunities for youth like internships and micro loans
16. LSO should include and involve youth in policy formulation

Public Private Partnership

17. Policy should be formulated through advocacy and lobbying
18. There should be a stakeholders' forum
19. Accountability and transparency should be developed and promoted
20. Networking with government institutions should be priority
21. Participation of LSOs in political process should be considered
22. Government should collaborate with LSOs especially in the area of ECD
23. Government officials must be made member of LSO's BOD.
24. Events should be arranged for involvement of community and especially women
25. National Internship Program (NIP) of Government should be done with collaboration of LSO and give priority to women
26. Government should arrange technical trainings through LSO with strict monitoring mechanism

C- Conclusion

The LSO Youth Convention 2013 gathered a sizeable number of LSO representatives both men and women, youth and youth led organizations, development partners of AKRSP, and important stakeholders from public and private sector. In keeping with the objectives of LSOs as organizations of the communities, the convention reviewed current program and projects of LSOs, the nature of partnership with public and private sector organizations, their relations and coordination with the member V/WOs, participation of young men and women in the LSO activities, areas of successful endeavors, important lessons learnt, challenges being faced and vistas of opportunities, and future plans.

The theme of the convention “empowered youth, empowered communities” has reflected in all the sessions of the convention with emphasis on participation of youth in decision making and development process and building their capacities and providing them with opportunities for using their skills and potentials for self-actualization as well as for realization of community development goals. Like the previous LSO convention, the LSO Youth Convention 2013, based on the convention deliberations, has adopted Youth Declaration, identifying important areas to be focused for the development of young men and women and the development of communities and the region as whole in the process. Working LSOs, AKRSP, and development partners in public and private sector in line with the declaration will usher in meeting of the objectives identified therein.

7- EVALUATION

After successfully conducting all the components of the convention, it was important to evaluate the overall program from participants' point of view. The purpose of evaluation was to gain firsthand information from the participants about their experiences and learning from the various sessions, their ranking of program and proceedings of the sessions, comments on what was more useful versus what was less useful or weak areas, suggestions for what improvement can be brought in for making the program more effective, educative, interesting and participatory. An evaluation form was designed for this purpose. The form was distributed among the participants at the end of the convention and after making their evaluations, the participants returned the form to the organizers.

The evaluation brought very useful feedback from the participants in terms of areas of excellence as well as areas needing improvement in overall mechanism and conduct of the convention; quality and relevance of speakers, presentations, group works and exhibition; and administrative matters of overall sessions including inauguration and closing session. The findings of the evaluation have given information about factors contributed to its success. On the other hand it will be instrumental in planning and organizing next LSO convention.

Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Haideri from LASPOLO LSO, Kharmang shared his experience in these words: "Although overall program was informative, however, the experiences shared by prominent figures, such as Shoaib Sultan Khan, were more educative." Further, he expressed his views saying, "If there is determination, nothing is difficult, examples of which could be seen in the convention, the seed which Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan had planted three decades back, is now a fruitful tree benefiting the people. For the development any community organizations, people should have awareness and they need to play their role and awareness can come through social mobilization."

Two important lessons learnt for Mr. Mohammad Nasir Abbass from Skardu were: "1) Instead of looking towards others, depending on the resources owned by self and their use can lead to success, 2) collective efforts can be more fruitful than individual efforts."

Amina Yonus from LSO Chorbut says that what she has learnt from the convention is: "how to operate business and how LSOs can do their social activities effectively."

While commenting on her learning from the sessions, Bibi Rashida from Biyar Local Support Organization of Boni Chitral, said 'two important things I learnt are youth leadership and gender balance. There should be more follow ups on the members of the YCLDP, who as trainers, should train other youth.' She further suggested to increase the duration of group workshop and grouping should be in keeping with the interests of the participants.

Sharing his learning Mohammad Wali, affiliated with Garam Chashma Area Development Organization (GADO) from Chitral, said "For doing anything one should have spirit of doing that and I feel I got that spirit." He further he states "For starting organization or business, one should have courage to do it." Sharing his suggestions he says that the number the speakers should not exceed the allocated time for the sessions. Regarding the young community leadership program, he is of the view that sustainability of V/WOs depend on the participation of the youth, therefore the elders should provide opportunities to the youth.

Noor Mohammad from Astor is associated with DRSP. He is of the opinion that the

coordination between LSOs and V/WOs should be increased. He suggested that events like LSO convention should be held so that people will get more awareness and become more competitive. For making the presentations effective, he suggested to award good presentations with prize so that the presenters will prepare well for the task. Emphasizing on the participation of youth in development process, he said that youth should be persuaded to come forward and workshops and trainings can serve this purpose well.

Mirza Hussain of Shahi Khyber Youth and Students Organization (SKYSO) from Gojal, Hunza said that he realized the importance of role of youth, LSOs and entrepreneurs in development process. He suggested to build the capacity of youth organizations. Youth organizations should arrange programs for awareness and training of youth. He further said that there should have been more focus on youth as the convention was intended to be about youth.

While sharing his learning from the sessions, Dinar Aman from Al-Karim LSO Ghizar quotes Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan and says that there should be clear determination of work of LSOs and V/WOs, and secondly youth should not be dependent on employment, rather they ought to seek self-employment. He suggested to avoid the squandering of time and the activities should be completed within the allocated time.

Malik Shah from Nomal LSO says that what he learnt from the sessions is importance of time, voluntarism, linkages and cooperation. He suggested helping those LSOs which have problem areas in their performance.

Representative of SRSO Chalet, Mr. Malik Ashdar said that LSOs should not be dependent on the help from others; rather they must create resources for themselves. He appreciated the presentations and added that the presenter should come with more preparation and they should be mindful about the time constraint.

ANNEXES

A- Convention Program

AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (AKRSP)

LSO YOUTH CONVENTION- 2013

Empowered youth – Empowered communities

VENUE: Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan

07-09 October, 2013

Convention Program

Day 1: Monday, 7th October, 2013	
08:30-09:30	Registration of the Participants
09:30- 10:30	Opening Session
	Chief Guest: Mr. Abdul Qamar Shehzad, Commissioner. Baltistan In the Chair: Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN Panelists: Inayat ullah Faizi, AKRSP Board director, General Manager AKRSP, Muhammad Saleh Assistant Commissioner Bonni Chitral.
09:30-09:35	Recitation from the Holy Quran/Tilawat e Kalam e Pak, by Syed Shafiq Shah Rizvi
09:35-09:40	Naat Sharif by Nadia
09:40 – 9:45	Offering condolence/ fatiha for Aisal e sawab of Mrs Shoiab Sultan Khan by Ahsan Danish- Stage Secretary
09:45-09: 55	Welcome and Objectives of the Convention by Abdul Malik, General Manager AKRSP
09:55-10:15	Inaugural Speech by Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN
10:15-10:30	Opening speech by Chief Guest Mr. Abdul Qamar Shehzad, Commissioner Baltistan Division
10:30- 11:00	Group Photo/Tea Break and visit to Exhibition area and stalls by Chief guest and invited guests
11:00 -13:00	LSO-Youth Session
	Chief Guest: Mr. Shoiab Sultan Khan In the Chair: Inayat ullah Faizi, Board Director AKRSP Panelists: LSO representatives one from each region, General Manager AKRSP, youth representatives one from each region.
11:00- 11:45	Presentation by LSO representaives from each region (15 minutes each): Chitral LSO delegation head, Gilgit LSO delegation head, Baltistan LSO delegation head
11:45-11:55	Question-Answer session
11:55 –13:20	Success Stories

11:55- 12:35	Presentation by youth micro challenge award recipients: Baltistan: Dr. Shujjat Hussain, preventive measures against TB, Hepatitis B in Baltistan Gilgit: Mirza Hussain, community library/youth resource centre in Khyber Chitral: Rehmat Ali Jaffar, environmental campaign/ Sardar Baig
12:35-12:45	Question-Answer
12:45- 13:15	Presentation by young community leadership development program alumni//youth internship program Gilgit: Zarina, TOT multiplication experience : Chitral: Bibi Rashida, TOT multiplication experience Baltistan: Sabeen Zehra, youth internship experience; Gilgit: Rehana, youth internship experience
13:15 – 3:20	Question-Answer Session
13:20 -14:00	Lunch and Prayer Break
14:00: 14:30	Experience sharing by entrepreneurs Baltistan: Abbas Rahim, Baltistan Farmers Association, Chitral: Imtiaz Alam, Gilgit: Lal Bano KADO.
14:30 –14:45	Gender mainstreaming story by Chitral: Javed Akbar and Nazia Akbar gender pairs with inputs from Gender Manager
14:45- 14:50	Closing remarks by Inayat ullah Faizi, Chair of the session
14:50- 15:10	Remarks by Shoiab Sultan Khan, Chief Guest of the session
15:10-15:15	Concluding remarks by GM AKRSP
15:15 –15:25	
15:25 -15:45	Tea Break
15:45 -16:45	
16:45 -17:30	Visit to exhibition area and stall by delegates,
17:30	End of Day-1/ return to hotels in designated vans

Day 2: Tuesday, 08 October , 2013

9:00 a.m.	LSO-Youth Session Continues
	In the Chair: Sher Wali Khan Aseer, LSO Punar Yarkhoon Moderator: Professor Inayat Ullah Faizi, Director AKRSP board Panelists: Group Leaders from each group of the six groups, RPMs/DRPM, PM GAD
09:00 - 09:05	Recitation from the Holy Quran by Seema Ayesha
09:05 – 09:10	Naat sharif by Jannat
9:10-10:30	Presentations by: Chitral: Rehmat Ali Jaffar (Environmental campaign),Chitral: Bibi Rashida (ToT multiplication experience) Gilgit: Rehana (Youth Internship Experience) Experience Sharing by entrepreneurs Baltistan: Abbas Rahim (Baltistan farmers association), Chitral: Imtiaz Alam (Enterprise),Gilgit: Lal Bano (KADO) Gender Mainstreaming Story by Chitral: Javed Akbar and Nazia Akbar gender pairs with inputs from GAD Manager
10:30-10:40	Introduction to Group work Themes and Group formation, pointing towards group work locations by PM ID
10:40-11:40	Facilitated Group work by six groups in designated locations (With working tea)
10:55 – 11:05	Concluding remarks by Chair of the session

	In the Chair: Muhamad Saleh Assistant Commissioner Chitral Moderator: Yasmin Karim, PM Gender Panelists: Yasir Hussain, DD Tourism, Wazir Aejaaz, BCDF, Didar Panah, Uswa, Mehreen Imtiaz, Al-Zahra Foundation, Muhammad Baqir, CHIP, Fida Hussain, AKPBSP, Manzoor Karim, JL-Sihat Hifazat
11:05 – 12:15	Presentations and discussions by partners on youth/community development related initiatives : Youth and Tourism Department, BCDF,Uswa Education System, Al-Zahrah Foundation, CHIP-Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Program, Aga Khan Planning and Building Service Pakistan,Jubilee Life –Sihaat Hifazat
12:15 – 13:20	Question-Answer
13:20- 13:25	Concluding remarks by Chair
13:25 – 15:00	Lunch and Prayer Break
	AKRSP Project
	In the Chair: Yasir Hussain, Deputy Director Tourism Moderator: Kulsoom Farman, Deputy Regional Program Manager Baltistan Panelists: Farid Ahmed CBSG, Rukhsana Ata, UBR, Karim ADP, Shahana Caritas
15:00- 15:10	Discussion
15:10- 15:20	Concluding remarks by Chair
15:00 – 17:15	Concluding session
	Chief Guest: Mr. Raja Fazli Khaliq, Deputy Commissioner Skardu, Baltistan In the Chair: Professor Inayat Ullah Faizi, Director AKRSP board Panelists: LSO representatives one from each region, youth representative one from each region, DRPM, PM-GAD, RPM-G.
15:00 -15:20	Chief guest on arrival (directly first visit the exhibition area along with AKRSP senior staff)
15:30 – 15:35	Gifts presentation by AKRSP board director to Chief Guest
15:35 – 15:45	Welcome and sharing objectives and conclusions of the Convention by RPM Gilgit
15:45: 16: 15	Concluding remarks by LSO delegation heads one from each region
16:15-16:30	Sharing the Convention Resolution- LSO Youth Charter by LSO representative to be nominated by delegation heads (based on key recommendations of the six group works and inputs in planery)
16:30 - 16:50	Awards and Souvenirs distribution ceremony LSOs and youth presenters
16:50- 17:00	Remarks by Chair
17:00 - 17:20	Concluding Remarks by Chief Guest
17:20 - 17:30	Vote of Thanks by DRPM
17:30 – 17:50	Tea /refreshment/ visit to stalls by delegates
17:50	End of Day2/ return to respective hotels in designated vans

Day 3: Wednesday, 09 October, 2013

Field visits (For Chitral and Gilgit Region LSO delegates). The delegates will be divided into different groups based on sector, gender and area-wise interests for logistical reasons.

Following are the proposed sites for visit:

- A. PCSIR:** This is a well-established agricultural complex, with processing and training facility. Would be a good opportunity for LSOs to see, learn and explore collaboration
- B. BCDF/BEDAR:** A community based local organisation mostly working on enterprise-based initiatives mainly in woodwork, apricot oil extraction, fabric weaving training, gems cutting and polishing.
- C. SADA LSO Hussainabad:** First LSO of Baltistan with a number of initiatives and partnerships including a recently established fruit processing unit and Vocational centre
- D. SDP/Satpara Dam:** A visit to SDP office and projects and site seeing Satapara dam area
- E. Shigar Fort and Community School:** Restoration and re-use of the Shigar Fort building and visit to the community school in Shigar will give an opportunity to LSO delegates to understand the role of culture in development, and town planning efforts in rapidly urbanising towns.
- F. Evening Gala Event:** A collective dinner for delegates at SPACE, with opportunity to learn about the culture, cuisines, hospitality and artistic traditions and talents of Baltistan.

B-Delegates' list

LSO YOUTH CONVENTION- 2013				
Empowered youth, empowered communities				
List of Delegates from GB C				
S#	Name of participants	Designation	Institution	Delegate Type
Astore				
1	Mr. Kifyat Din	Manager	Kohsar Rural Support Programme	LSO
2	Mr. Fazal ur Rehman	Chairman	Asora Rural Support Programme	LSO
3	Ms. Tasleem Noor	Vice Chairperson	Deosai Rural Support Programme	LSO
4	Mr. Jamsheed Khan	Chairman	Deosai Rural Support Programme	LSO
Chitral				
5	Mr. Khosh Wazir	Manager	Shishikho Madaklasht Area Development Program	LSO
6	Ms. Asia Jamal	BOD Member	Shishikho Madaklasht Area Development Program	LSO
7	Mr. Mohd Wali	Chairperson	Gharamchasma Area Development Organisation	LSO
8	Ms. Shazia	WSO	Gharamchasma Area Development Organisation	LSO
9	MR. Muhkamuddin	Chairperson	Ayun Valley Development Programme	LSO

10	Ms. Mirkani	GB Member	Ayun Valley Development Programme	LSO
11	Mr. Hamid ur Rehman	Vice Chairperson	Qarramber Area Support and Development Organisation	LSO
12	Ms.Khosh Bibi	WSO	Qarramber Area Support and Development Organisation	LSO
13	Mr. Attaullah Jan	Manager	Upper Torkhow Development Network	LSO
14	Ms. Tahira Bibi	Accountant	Upper Torkhow Development Network	LSO
15	S. Wazir Shakir	Manager	Razdan Area Development Organisation	LSO
16	Ms. Aslima	WSO	Razdan Area Development Organisation	LSO
17	Mr. Mohd Aziz	Manager	Hindukush Area Rural Support Organisation	LSO
18	Ms. Sajida Begum	Vice Chairperson	Hindukush Area Rural Support Organisation	LSO
19	Mr. Bashirullah	Manager	Khow Local Support Organisation	LSO
20	Ms. Suraya Shahb	Activist	Khow Local Support Organisation	LSO
21	Mr. Sher Wali Khan	Chairperson	Purposefull Utilization of Nature and Resources	LSO
22	Ms. Nahida Zaman	BODMember	Purposefull Utilization of Nature and Resources	LSO
23	Mr. Anwarul Haq	Manager	Trichmir Area Development Organisation	LSO
24	Ms. Zahida Bibi	WSO	Trichmir Area Development Organisation	LSO
25	Mr. Rehmat Ghafoor Baig	Vice Chairperson	Integrated Chitral Development Programme	LSO
26	Mr. Sehar Shah	GB Member	Integrated Chitral Development Programme	LSO
27	Mr. Ashfaq Alam	Manager	Drosh Area Development Programme	LSO
28	Ms. Qurat-ul-Ain	GB Member	Drosh Area Development Programme	LSO
29	Mr. Zafarullah	Chairperson	Booni Local Support Organisation	LSO
30	Ms. Zainnura	Activist	Booni Local Support Organisation	LSO
31	Mr. Israruddin	Chairperson	Karimabad Area Developemnt Organisation	LSO
32	Ms. Irfana	Activist	Karimabad Area Developemnt Organisation	LSO
33	Mr. Safirullah	Chairperson	Koh Intigrated Development Programme	LSO
34	Ms. Shabana Amir	WSO	Koh Intigrated Development Programme	LSO
35	Mr. Intikhab Alam	Manager	Chitral Community Development Network	LSO
36	Mr. Sardar Baig	Member	Youth Micro Challenge Award	Youth Groups
37	Mr. Rahmat Ali Jaffer Dost	Member	Youth Micro Challenge Award	Youth Groups
38	Mr. Muhaiuddin	Focal person GBC	Young Community Leadership Alumni Network	LSO
39	Ms.Bibi Rashida	Alumni	Youth Community Leaders Development Program	LSO
40	Mr. Javed Akbar	Gender Pair	Village Organization member	LSO

41	Ms. Nazia Akbar	Gender Pair	Women Organization Member	LSO
42	Mr. Wasiuddin Akash	Member	Youth	Youth Groups
43	Ms. Zubaida	Member	Youth	Youth Groups
44	Mr. Mir Salim	High Achiever	Youth	Youth Groups
45	Mr. Muhsin Shadab	Member	Youth	Youth Groups
46	Mr. Imtiaz Alam	Entrepreneur	Booni Institute of Education and Management Sciences	employment
47	Mr. Sardar Hakim	social entrepreneur	Pearl College	employment
48	Ms. Noor Shahida	Entrepreneur	Kalash	employment
49	Ms. Qurban Bibi	Entrepreneur		Skill providers
50	Syed Mazhar Ali Shah	Assistant Commissioner	Administration	Govt
51	Dr. Inayatullah Faizi	BoD	Aga Khan Rural Support Program	AKRSP
52	Mr. Fazli Malik	Manager	Institutional Development	AKRSP
53	Ms. Nighat Yasmin	Youth Mobiliser	Institutional Development	AKRSP
54	Ms. Sadiqa Musharaf	Social Mobiliser	Institutional Development	AKRSP
55	Mr. Farid Ahmad	Manager	CBSG	AKRSP
56	Ms. Razia Sultana	sptt	Gender And Development	AKRSP
57	Mr. Shah Abul Mansoor	Manager	Administration	AKRSP
58	Mr. Imran Elahi	Monitor	MER	AKRSP
59	Mr. Sajjad Hussain	Manager	Market Development	AKRSP
60	Mr. Mohd Yunus	Monitor	Institutional Development	AKRSP
61	Syed Nasir Shah	Monitor	Market Development	AKRSP
Ghanche				
62	Mr. Maqbool Hussain	Chairman	Daghoni Balghar Local Support Organisation	LSO
63	Mr. Ali Khan	Manager	Daghoni Balghar Local Support Organisation	LSO
64	Ms. Nazra	Member	Dahoni Balghar Local support Organisation	LSO
65	Mr. Yahya Khan	Chairman	Thallay Local Support Organisation	LSO
66	Mr. Ahmad Ali	Manager	Thallay Local Support Organisation	LSO
67	Ms. Fatima	Member GB	Thallay Local Support Organisation	LSO
68	Ms. Habiba Zahra	Chairperson	Khaplu Local Support Organisation	LSO
69	Mr. Muhammad Ashraf	Manager	Khaplu Local Support Organisation	LSO
70	Ms. Ascho Sadiqa	Member GB	Khaplu Local Support Organisation	LSO
71	Mr. Mehdi	Vice Chairman	Chorbat Local Support Organisation	LSO
72	Mr. Muhammad Amin	Manager	Chorbat Local Support Organisation	LSO

73	Mr. Ali Hussain	Activist	Frano Local Support Organisation	LSO
74	Mr. Qurban Ali	Chairman	Frano Local Support Organisation	LSO
75	Ms.Amina	Manager	Frano Local Support Organisation	LSO
76	Muhammad Amin	Alumni	Young Community Leadership Alumni Network	LSO
77	Shabbir Hussain	Alumni	Young Community Leadership Alumni Network	LSO
Ghizer				
78	Mr. Ali Ashraf	Finance Sec	Silgan Development Organisation	LSO
79	Mr. Dinar Aman Shah	Manager	Alkarim Development Organisation Taus	LSO
80	Mr. Maqsd Mir	Vice Chair	LSO Network Ghizer	LSO
81	Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim	Chairman	Shandur local Support organization Teru	LSO
82	Ms. Saeeda	Information Sec	Hilbosh Local Support Organisation Singal	LSO
83	Ms. Bibi Jahan	Voice Chairperson	Best Town Local Support Organisation Gahkuch	LSO
84	Ms. Dilshad Bano	BOD member	Chatorkhand Local Support Organisation	LSO
85	Mr. Azmat Ali Shah	Voice Chairperson	Sangam Local Support organisation Hatoon	LSO
86	Ms. Gul begum	Voice chairperson	Sherqilla Local Support Organisation	LSO
87	Mr. Ali Goher	Chairman	Chatorkhand Local Support Organisation	LSO
88	Mr. Sakhi Jan	Gender Pair	Alkarim Development Organisation Taus	LSO
89	Ms. Mehnaz	Gender Pair	Alkarim Development Organisation Taus	LSO
90	Mr. Shaheen Khan	Chairman	Phander Local Support Organisation	LSO
91	Mr. Zahid Hussain	Chairman	Youth Holistic Development organization, Ghizer	Youth led org
92	Ms. Zarina	Alumni	Youth Community Leaders Development Program	LSO
Gilgit				
93	Mr. Muhammad Iqbal	Chairman	Village and Women Organisations Development Company	LSO
94	Mr. Shahadat Noor	Vice Chair	Dobani Development Organisation	LSO
95	Mr. Zafarullah Baig	Manager	Village and Women Organisations Development Company	LSO
96	Ms. Perveen	BOD Member	Local Support Organisation Nomal	LSO
97	Mr. Malik Shah	BOD member	Local Support Organisation Nomal	LSO
98	Mr. Sirtaj	Chairman	Haramosh Development Organisation	LSO
99	Mr. Amjad Hussain	Chairman	Educators Development Youth Organization Khomer Gilgit	Youth led org

100	Mr. Mushtaq Ali	Alumni	YCLDP	LSO
101	Ms. Sumera Safdar	Alumni	Youth Internship Program	Youth Groups
102	Mr. Baqir Hussain	Alumni	Youth Internship Program	Youth Groups
103	Ms. Banazir	Alumni	Youth Community Leaders Development Program	Youth Groups
104	Mr. Khawar	Alumni	Youth Community Leaders Development Program	Youth Groups
105	Mr. Aejaaz	Alumni	Employability Case study	Youth Groups
106	Ms. Hawa Bibi	Member	CIQAM	Skill providers
107	Mr. Waheed	Entrepreneur	Romi Arts & Craft	Skill providers
108	Ms. Najma Begum	Entrepreneur	Five Star Gems Cutting and Jewelry center	Skill providers
109	Ms. Aziza	Entrepreneur	Carpet Center Gulmit	Skill providers
110	Ms. Zawar Bano	Entrepreneur	Darul Hunar Handicrafts Hunza	Skill providers
111	Ms. Shahina	Entrepreneur	Mountain fruit	Skill providers
112	Mr. Imran	Entrepreneur	Farmer Association	Skill providers
113	Mr. Yasir Hussain	Director	Youth Culture and Tourism	Govt
114	Mr. Nazir Ahmad	RPM	Focus Humanitarian Assistance	AKDN
115	Mr. Manzoor Karim	Marketing officer	Jubilee Life Insurance	AKDN
116	Mr. Bulbul Jan Shams	Head	Hashoo Foundation	Private Sector
117	Mr. Karim ullah Manager MD	Manager	Market Development	AKRSP
118	Ms. Yasmeen Qalandar	Manager	Institutional Development	AKRSP
119	Ms. Kosar Bano	sptt	Gender And Development	AKRSP
120	Ms. Shahana	Manager	Administration	AKRSP
121	Mr. Mohd Ibrahim	Manager	Administration	AKRSP
122	Mr. Mehboob Ali	Monitor	Institutional Development	AKRSP
123	Mr. Zeeshan	Monitor	Gender And Development	AKRSP
Hunza/Nagar				
124	Mr. Mirza Hussain	Chairman	Shahi Khyber Youth Organization, Hunza-Nagar	Youth led org
125	Mr. Karim Ullah Baig	Manager	Baltit Rural Support Organisation	LSO
126	Mr. Safdar Ali	Manager	Ganish Development Organisation	LSO
127	Mr. Ali Muhammad	Chairman	Rakaposhi Development Organisation	LSO
128	Ms. Fatima Bano	BOD Member	Altit Rural Support Organisation	LSO
129	Mr. Ali Madad	Chairman	Altit Rural Support Organisation	LSO
130	Ms. Zahida Ameen	BoD Member	Haiderabad Rural Support Organisation	LSO
131	Mr. Meherban Karim	Manager	Mountain Area Support Organisation	LSO

132	Mr. Saleem Haider	Member	Gojal Local Support Organizations Network	LSO
133	Mr. Malik	Manager	Shainber Rural Support Organisation	LSO
134	Mr. Karam Ali Shah	Manager	Shinaki Area Development Organization	LSO
Skardu				
135	Mr. Yasir Abbas	Chairman	SADA Local Support Organization Hussainabad	LSO
136	Mr. Muhammad Ali	Manager	SADA Local Support Organization Hussainabad	LSO
137	Ms. Ghazala	GB Memembr	SADA Local Support Organization Hussainabad	LSO
138	Mr. Zaman Ali	Member GB	Braldo Local Support Organization	LSO
139	Mr. Muhammad Ali	Chairman	Braldo Local Support Organization	LSO
140	sheikh. Muhammad Ali	Manager	Basha Local Support Organization	LSO
141	Mr. Muhammad Hussain Pasha	Chairman	Basha Local Support Organization	LSO
142	Ms.Noshad Batool	Manager	Basha Local Support Organization	LSO
143	Mr. Mehdi Ali	Social Mobiliser	Mendi Local Support Organization	LSO
144	Wazir Murad Ali	Chairman	Mendi Local Support Organization	LSO
145	Haji Faiz Muhammad	Manager	Chunda Local Support Organization	LSO
146	Mr. Muhammad Nazir	Chairman	Chunda Local Support Organization	LSO
147	Ms. Kaneez Fatima	Manager	Chunda Local Support Organization	LSO
148	Haji Askari	GB Member	KISAN Local Support Organization Shigari Khurd	LSO
149	Mr. Ghulam Mehdi	BOD Member	KISAN Local Support Organization Shigari Khurd	LSO
150	Ms.Safia Batool	Manager	KISAN Local Support Organization Shigari Khurd	LSO
151	Mr. Nisar Abbas	BOD member	KISAN Local Support Organization Shigari Khurd	LSO
152	Mr. Sheir Muhammad Payalo	Chairman	KISAN Local Support Organization Shigari Khurd	LSO
153	Ms.Nadia Batool	Manager	KISAN Local Support Organization Shigari Khurd	LSO
154	Mr.Nisar Hussain	Social Mobiliser	Marapi Local Support Organization	LSO
155	Mr.Akhtar Ali	Chairman	Marapi Local Support Organization	LSO
156	Ms. Fatima	Manager	Marapi Local Support Organization	LSO
157	Haji Hassan	BOD Member	SERMAN Local Support Organization	LSO
158	Mr. Muhammad Abdullah	Chairman	SERMAN Local Support Organization	LSO
159	Ms. Kulsoom Bano	Manager	SERMAN Local Support Organization	LSO

160	Wazir Nisar Ali	GB Member	Mehdiabad Local Support Organization	LSO
161	Mr. Ghulam Mehdi	Chairman	Mehdiabad Local Support Organization	LSO
162	Ms. Komal	Manager	Mehdiabad Local Support Organization	LSO
163	Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Haideri	GB Memembr	Social Association for Sustainable Partnership, Organisation, Leadership and Opportunities Kharmang	LSO
164	sheikh Muhammad Ali	Chairman	Social Association for Sustainable Partnership, Organisation, Leadership and Opportunities Kharmang	LSO
165	Syed Talib Shah	Member BOD	Basho Kachura Local Support Organisation	LSO
166	Mr. Mehdi Ali Naeem	Chairman	Basho Kachura Local Support Organisation	LSO
167	Ms.Sadia	Manager	Basho Kachura Local Support Organisation	LSO
168	Wazir Imtiaz Hussain	Member BOD	Local Support Organisation Staq	LSO
169	Mr. Haji Hassan	Chairman	Local Support Organisation Baghicha	LSO
170	Muhammad Hussain Azad		BEMRA	CSO
171	Zareena Tabasum		Baltistan Women Development	Youth serving Org
172	Zahid Rajpoot		Khurpa Care	Youth serving Org
173	Ghulam Raza		Beroser Youth Club Harpo Bala	Youth serving Org
174	Nazneen Zahra	Alumni	Young Community Leadership Alumni Network	LSO
175	Nahida	Alumni	Young Community Leadership Alumni Network	LSO
176	Shahid Raza	Alumni	Young Community Leadership Alumni Network	LSO
177	Irshad Hussain	Alumni	Young Community Leadership Alumni Network	LSO
178	Muhammad Aqeel	Alumni	Young Community Leadership Alumni Network	LSO
179	Ali Kazim Golden		Tibet Arts Council	Youth Groups
180	Dr. Irshad Ali	Assistant Professor	KIU Capmus Skardu	Govt
181	Kashif Ali	Assistant Director	Tourism and Youth Affairs	Govt
182	Baqir Ali	Incharge	Civil Society Human and Institutional Dev. Program	CSO
183	Fazil Ali	Head	Marafie Foundation	CSO
184	Muhammad Abbas	Incharge	Aga Khan Planning and Building Service Pakistan	CSO

185	Mehreen Imtiaz	Head	Al-Zahra Foundation	CSO
186	Wazir Ejaz Hussain	Manager	Baltistan Culture and Development Foundation	CSO
Others				
187	Dr Shujaat Hussain		Student Welfare Organization	Youth led org
188	Mumtaz Ali		Skarchen Welfare Organization Khaghorik Thallay	Youth led org
189	Zulfiqar Ali		Al-Meherban Welfare Organization	Youth serving Org
190	Shakeel Rathore		Tanzem e Nowjawan e Agaypa	Youth led org
191	Firdosi			Youth Groups
192	Nisar Abbas		Media	CSO
193	Abdul Qamar Shehzad	Commissioner	Gilgit-Baltistan Administration	Government
194	Raja Fazil Khaliq	Deputy Commissioner	Gilgit-Baltistan Administration	Government



C-Media Coverage

LSO Youth Convention 2013- Media Coverage

Dr. Inayatullah Faizi in his column “Dad-e-Baidar” on October 8, 2013, published in the daily “Aeen” Peshawar, paying tributes to Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, the founding GM of AKRSP, says that he initiated the participatory development and social program under the name of the Aga Khan Rural Support Program. The program introduced the model of upliftment through increased self-reliance and less dependency on government for social welfare. The program was successfully run in the region from 1984 to 1994 and later its success was tested in other regions as well. Apart from the four provinces of Pakistan, this model was successfully adopted in Indian State of Andhra Pradesh and is considered as the best model for self-reliance.



In another column entitled “Youth and Local Organizations” published in the same newspaper on October 10, 2013, Mr. Faizi gives his eye witnessed account of the LSO Youth Convention 2013 held in Skardu. In addition to the detailed description of the proceedings of the convention, depicts the outcomes and impacts of the initiatives of the AKRSP in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. He said through the program, barren lands were brought under cultivation; the yield from the land and trees increased three and even four folds; the products from the rural economy, which went wasted in absence of proper mechanism of accessing market, were made marketable. These initiatives resulted for the local population to have money for their health, education and social services. Efforts were made not only save the handicrafts and household industry of women from extinction but also facilitated them to become active part of development process. For employability and enhancement of leadership in youth, program such as “Enhancing Employability and Leadership in Youth” (EELY) is actively working with youth.



Pamir Times

Skardu, October 8: Youth, social leader, academicians and development practitioners from different parts of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral have gathered in Skardu in large numbers to attend the three-day LSO Youth Convention, organized by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), as part of a CIDA funded youth focused project named EELY.

Renowned development expert, Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN, was present on the first day of the convention, along with district officials. Panelists on the first day of the convention included Dr. Inayat Ullah Faizi- Director AKRSP, Abdul Malik, CEO AKRSP, and M. Saleh, Assistant Commissioner of Booni sub-division, Chitral. The first day also saw presentations by beneficiaries of the EELY programme and LSO delegates.



Experience sharing by the youth groups and delegates continued on the second day (10th October).

<http://pamirtimes.net/2013/10/08/three-day-lso-youth-convention-underway-skardu-baltistan/>

Other newspapers giving coverage to the event were leading publishes newspaper from GB the daily Baad-e-Shimal and Daily K-2. Both newspaper published about the convention in main heading detailing proceedings along with pictures.





Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme is a private, non-profit company, established by the Aga Khan Foundation to help improve the quality of life of the villagers of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral (GBC). It was established in 1982 with the mandate to focus on economic and institutional development in collaboration with government departments, elected bodies, national and international development agencies and commercial institutions. Although AKRSP's own emphasis on the productive sectors, it is also expected assist others agencies in promoting social sector programmes. AKRSP was established to act as a catalyst for rural development, organizing local human and financial resources in order to enable the communities to bring about their own development in an equitable and sustainable manner.

AKRSP is a non-communal organization, working with all the people of its project area, and recruiting its staff from all over Pakistan.



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