NEWSLETTER

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SHELTER FOR POOR OR DESTITUTE

After the successful implementation of "Restoration of One Room Shelter" project in Union Council Kandhu, District Qambar Shahdadkot, MDF in collaboration with IOM is implementing another project "Restoration of One Room Shelter" in another flood affected district of Sindh i.e. District Shikarpur in its Union Council Humayun, Taluka Shikarpur, After identifying the villages with the higher percentage of destroyed houses, 640 beneficiaries in UC Humayun, taluka Shikarpur are being provided with 640 One Room Shelters.

Besides, the MDF team working in those areas strives to resolve the social and tribal conflicts that are hindering the socio economic progress of the communities in the district. The tribal conflicts amongst tribes are increasing and the number of murders is also rife. The MDF team has suffered due to the presence of some anti-social elements that has promoted violence, uncertainty and insecurity in the vicinity. The conflict that erupted between dacoits and law



agencies obstructed enforcement the movement of people due to the threat of being abducted. In this precarious situation the MDF team has established close coordination with police department and the conflict affected communities are being supported by increasing their access

towards police officials and the local traditional elders and political activists are being sensitized to resolve conflicts and promote social harmony in the surrounding. Moreover, the MDF team ensuring its commitment for community welfare is providing advisory services to the conflict affected communities and even it is holding dialogues with the beneficiaries of IOM project to take appropriate measures to move towards cooperation rather than confrontation.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO KEEP THEIR VILLAGES FREE FROM OPEN DEFECATION

MDF in collaboration with Community Development Program (CDP), Government of Sindh is addressing the increased need of safe drinking water supply and sanitation facilities in UC Atta Muhammad Palli, Taluka Umerkot, District Umerkot through the provision of 300 hand pumps and 300 latrines in the 27 villages of the UC with the active involvement of local people with the installation and construction of hand pumps and latrines respectively.



MDF team has provided the local communities with agricultural extension services through continuous support from Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) to promote disaster resilient crop varieties and counter the menace of water shortage in the district. The team has given sessions on health and hygiene promotion and it has voluntarily provided its vehicle to celebrate the Maternal and Neo-Natal Child Health Care week in collaboration with Government of Sindh. The team is also promoting social forestry practices by promoting the plantation of Neem and Conocorpus trees in the district. Through these cross cutting interventions it is it is anticipated that the socio economic conditions of these communities will



improve and the standard of life will become attractive and pleasing.

TEACHING MATHEMATICS ENGLISH THROUGH ACTIVITY BASED LEARNING

MDF in collaboration with Ilm Ideas is implementing the pilot project titled, "Teaching Mathematics & English Through Interactive and activity based learning to Enhance Learning Achievements of Girl and Boy Students in Government and Private Primary Schools" by designing Sindh Text Book Board Books in the form of teacher's activity based learning manual in Mathematics and English subjects to teach girl and boy students and students calligraphic workbooks to enhance enrolment and learning environment achievements in 30 Public and 5 Private Primary Schools of Union Council Seerani, District Badin, Sindh province.

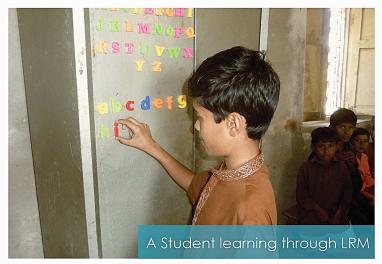


The MDF team has recently facilitated the media production house to shoot a documentary on the socio economic conditions and quality of education in the southern and coastal district of Sindh.

The documentary will be on-aired on Sindhi and Urdu TV channels to depict the miseries of people in the district and to circulate the message of cooperation to larger audience to improve their conditions. Through its educational intervention, MDF has prompted a debate amongst teachers on introducing more participatory and learning techniques to improve education and increase the enrollment of children by providing an effective message that schools are a place of enlightenment, pleasure, courage and determination rather than a place of confinement where the dreams of intellectual freedom can be materialized and strengthened.

PROMOTING LEARNING RESOURCE MATERIAL FOR QUALITY EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF SINDH PROVINCE

MDF in collaboration with Ilm Ideas is implementing the scale-up project on Promoting Learning Resource Material for Quality Education in Primary Schools of Sindh Province of Pakistan. This project involves the up scaling of Ilm pilot project in Taluka Qasimabad and UC Seerani of Hyderabad and Badin districts respectively and promotion of developed teachers' manuals, children's workbooks and learning resource kit in Sindh province targeting the 40 public and 10 private primary schools in Badin and Hyderabad districts of Sindh province.



The MDF team has strengthened its coordination links with district educational officials and the government machinery is being provided an opportunity through communities' sensitization programs to deliver the message of government to the common man to abridge the gulf between people and State. The MDF's education program has facilitated the

government teachers to practice participatory teaching and activity based learning techniques in the public and primary schools, resultantly the public schools enrollment is gradually increasing in rural and urban areas schools where the team has intervened. It has also celebrated International Women's Day and introduced Referral Systems Network for women to raise their voice in case of any injustice experienced by the female due to male chauvinism and violence perpetrated to blockade the voice of liberty and socio economic empowerment.

SHELTER TO IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITIES OF TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN

The MDF team has brought the electable and electorates on the negotiation table and the concept of plutocracy is being thwarted by promoting grassroots level empowerment by involving politicians and other stakeholders to identify the beneficiaries for the provision of low cost housing units. In collaboration with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Housing Cell (BHC), Government of Sindh a project in district Tando Muhammad Khan is being implemented by



MDF, the supervision of construction of 175 housing units as per SBBHC design, trainings of Masons, quality control of the construction material, management and record keeping / supervision over Government grants to be effectively utilized for low cost housing units for the beneficiary families are being constructed.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH FINANCIAL SERVICES

MDF has initiated the concept of the provision of soft

and small loans to the females residing in the urban slums and rural areas of Hyderabad District to enable them to come out of the vortex of poverty and it aims to provide trainings to the youth on entrepreneurship and enterprise development to enable them to qualify for the small loans and utilize the capital effectively to run their small business to ensure self-employment and promote repayment culture through easy installments.



The slogans of economic uplifting are being raised by the minorities and socially excluded sections. The MDF team is not only ameliorating their conditions but also striving for their social equality and is also taking efforts to highlight their conditions in social events and it is also mobilizing the political representatives to represent the voice of this voiceless section in the illustrious buildings of the Assemblies. The team is also providing health and hygiene sessions to the secluded sections and it is also empowering the scheduled castes through social activism and social organization skills to collectively raise their voice for ensuring accountability of relevant departments to focus on the introduction of community friendly programs to improve their conditions.

MDF FEMALE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

MDF introduced Female Internship Program in April 2014 for fresh graduates. The Internship is designed to provide graduates with opportunity to transfer the education learnt in classrooms into practical, applied experience in real world. The program is formally structured to give interns the opportunity to work in positions related to their academic/career goals. The first batch of Internship started with



started with three graduates belonging to various field of education; Business Administration and Social Sciences. The department of Finance, HR and Programs welcomed new batch with an expectation of achievement of key learning set out by each department.

ISO 9001: 2008 QUALITY MANAGEMENT **CERTIFICATION**

MDF feels pleasure to inform that it has been independently audited and globally validated as being in conformance with ISO 9001:2008 QMS Certification. Achieving ISO 9001: 2008 Certification is an important milestone for MDF because it authenticates that MDF has embraced the concept of quality, efficiency and continuous improvement throughout its operations. The Certification which was awarded by one of the USA based accredited firms to MDF in April 2014 indicates to the high levels of beneficiary/customer satisfaction in MDF implementations.

CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS FOR **FUTURE PARTNERSHIP**

OXFAM GB and USAid in April and May 2014 respectively visited MDF with its expert/core team for capacity assessment of MDF. On the basis of assessment OXFAM GB has recommended MDF for the LONG TERM PROGRAMME.

Similarly, The USAid assessment visit was declared successful and mission had recommended MDF for the award of USAID's CRP-PRP project.

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