



**TESTAY VILLAGE
BRALDO VALLEY
DISTRICT SHIGAR
GILGIT- BALTISTAN
PAKISTAN**

**A COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE
BY
BRALDU VALLEY FOUNDATION**





ABOUT US

“COMMUNITIES MATTER ” IS AN INDEPENDENT VOLUNTARY CHARITY GROUP FOCUSED ON ASSISTING MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES BY:

1. IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN
2. IMPROVING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN
3. BUILDING COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
4. ENSURING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
5. WORKING CLOSELY WITH GOVERNMENT
6. WORKING CLOSELY WITH DONORS
7. PROMOTE AWARENESS OF HEALTH AND HYGIENE

100% of donor contributions are utilized in the target communities



BACKGROUND

- TESTAY IS AN ISOLATED VILLAGE, 6 HOURS BY ROAD FROM SHIGAR, LAST VILLAGE BEFORE THE START OF THE MIGHTY BIAFO GLACIER
- 120 HOUSEHOLDS AND 720 CHILDREN. VERY LOW LITERACY RATE
- SUBSISTENCE ECONOMY RELIES ON WHEAT PRODUCTION, LIVESTOCK AND SEASONAL WORK AS PORTERS
- SMALL GOVERNMENT SCHOOL WITH 2 TEACHERS AND 2 VOLUNTEERS. MANY OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN. HIGH DROPOUT RATES. ONE TEACHER PER HUNDRED STUDENTS
- LIMITED TEACHING AIDS AND FACILITIES (TOILETS, WATER SUPPLY, ELECTRICITY)
- LOW PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN WHO MAINLY WORK IN THE FIELDS AND UNDERTAKE HOUSEHOLD DUTIES
- AVERAGE FAMILY DISPOSABLE INCOME IS VERY LOW
- POOR HYGIENE AWARENESS
- NON - FUNCTIONAL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES

"COMMUNITIES MATTER" TEAM VISITED TESTAY VILLAGE IN MAY 2024





WATER OPERATED STONE MILL



YAKS PLOUGHING THE LAND



TRADITIONAL KITCHEN



WOMAN CARRYING BASKET OF WOOD &
PLOUGHING TOOLS



GIRLS WASHING CLOTHES IN THE VILLAGE
WATER CHANNEL



GIRLS WASHING UTENSILS IN THE VILLAGE
WATER CHANNEL

TESTAY VILLAGE VISIT

- IN MAY 2024, “COMMUNITIES MATTER” TEAM VISITED TESTAY VILLAGE FOR FOUR DAYS
- CONDUCTED FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NUMBERDAAR, IMAM, VILLAGE ELDERS, YOUTH AND WOMEN
- SPENT TIME AT THE SCHOOL AND LOOKED CLOSELY AT THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE, WATER SUPPLY AND PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY TO THE VILLAGE
- APPRISED BOTH THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SHIGAR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR EDUCATION OF THE STATE OF EDUCATION AND OTHER PROBLEMS THE VILLAGERS ENCOUNTER ON A DAILY BASIS
- BRAINSTORMED WAYS OF EMPOWERING THE VILLAGERS TO NAVIGATE THEIR LIVES EFFECTIVELY
- DISCUSSED WITH THE GOVERNMENT HOW THEY CAN ASSIST US IMPROVE VILLAGE LIVELIHOOD



PAINTED
CLASSROOMS



CONDUCTED
SURVEY OF 90
HHS

COLLECTED SOIL
SAMPLES

INVESTIGATED THE
WATER SUPPLY



SET UP AND ECD
CLASSROOM



INTERVIEWED 12
CANDIDATES FOR
TEACHING
POSITIONS

PROVIDED ECD
TEACHING AIDS

PROBLEMS

- LACK OF TEACHERS / POOR LEADERSHIP
- NO ELECTRICITY IN SCHOOL
- LOW CROP YIELD/ LOW FAMILY INCOME
- POOR HYGIENE AWARENESS
- LACK OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION
- LIMITED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
- LIMITED PARTICIPATION FROM WOMEN
- LACK OF ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER



WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

AN INITIAL 3-YEAR PROGRAM INCLUDES

- PROVIDE MORE TEACHING STAFF
- PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS
- ENCOURAGE OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN TO JOIN SCHOOL
- PROVIDE ACCESS TO E-LEARNING RESOURCES TO AID TEACHING AND LEARNING
- BUILD A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION
- INCREASE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING
- ENSURE THE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION
- EXAMINE REASONS FOR LOW CROP YIELD/ INCOME
- PROVIDE ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER



HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

WE ARE SEEKING DONORS TO FUND TEACHERS' SALARIES FOR A FULL YEAR:

	NAME	POSITION	SALARY/MONTH (PKR)	SALARY/YEAR (PKR)
1.	MR. SHER ALI	SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR	43,300	519,600
2.	MR. ALI ZAMAN	COORDINATOR	25,000	300,000
3.	MR. ZAMAN ALI	TEACHER	22,000	264,000
4.	MR. RAHAT HUSSAIN	TEACHER	22,000	264,000
5.	MS. ZAHRA BATOOL	ECD TEACHER (LEAD)	20,000	240,000
6.	MS. FARIDA BATOOL	ECD TEACHER (ASSISTANT)	15,000	180,000
		TOTAL	147,300	1,767,600

**“IF YOU
EDUCATE A GIRL,
YOU EDUCATE A NATION”**



SUSTAINABILITY

IT IS CRITICAL THAT OUR INTERVENTIONS ARE STRUCTURED IN A MANNER TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY AFTER OUR PROGRAM ENDS

- BUILD A FUNCTIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
- ENSURE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION
- INVOLVE WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING
- CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT ON SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS



“WHEN WOMEN ARE EDUCATED,

THEIR COUNTRIES BECOME STRONGER AND MORE PROSPEROUS.”





Mehreen Husain brings a wealth of teaching experience in Mathematics and Economics from diverse institutions and educational levels, including the Aga Khan University Education Board, International Baccalaureate, and Cambridge International.

She has worked as a curriculum developer for the Abu Dhabi Education Council with a focus on Statistics and Financial Mathematics.

Currently serving as an Educational Adviser to Nasir-e-Khusrow Model Academy in Gulikin, Hunza, she focuses her research on understanding the educational journey of youth in Gilgit-Baltistan and its profound impact on their identities and aspirations.

Residing in Lahore with her family, Mehreen holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the London School of Economics and recently obtained an MPhil in Education from the Lahore University of Management Sciences.



Mike Stewart lives in Australia but travels extensively. He is married with three children and six grand children.

He has spent 15 years on rural development projects in Thailand and Laos and established the Australian English Language Centre in Vientiane Laos with his wife.

Mike has extensive experience in project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation with a particular focus on community development, agricultural research and extension, water supply and sanitation and project economics.

In 2023 Mike visited Pakistan and commenced a 3-year program with the Ghulkin community to support the NKMA community school. In May 2024 he visited Testay (an isolated village 8 hours north of Skardu).



Shanila Parveen is a seasoned professional in research and data analysis, having held significant roles at Teach the World Foundation (TTWF), The Citizens Foundation (TCF), and the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP).

At TTWF, she designed and analyzed assessment data to monitor the efficacy of Ed-Tech interventions, while at TCF, she processed and interpreted data to inform strategic decisions on student assessments and teacher evaluations.

Her passion for improving school systems is evident through her board membership at Nasir-e-Khisrow Model Academy in Gilgit-Baltistan, where she leads academic initiatives and teacher training programs. Currently, Shanila is furthering her impact as a research associate intern at the American Institute for Research (AIR), Chicago where she continues to contribute to meaningful educational research and policy development.

Shanila holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and an MPhil in Education from the Lahore University of Management Sciences. Currently, she is pursuing a Masters in Public Policy at the University of Chicago.



With more than 35 years of experience in Civil Engineering, Geotech and Project Management, Zohair Ataulлах brings an invaluable insight into managing the logistical and technical aspects of the work.

His experience in administering large projects in the northern areas of Pakistan and overcoming the challenges that such work brings adds to the synergy of our team.

He has vast experience in executing soil, water and power projects and has worked with many international companies from China, France, UK, Korea, Japan, Portugal and Germany.

His contract development and human resource management experience is extremely useful in creating sustainable partnerships with local communities.

PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY:

BRALDU VALLEY FOUNDATION
A COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT GROUP



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