

PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

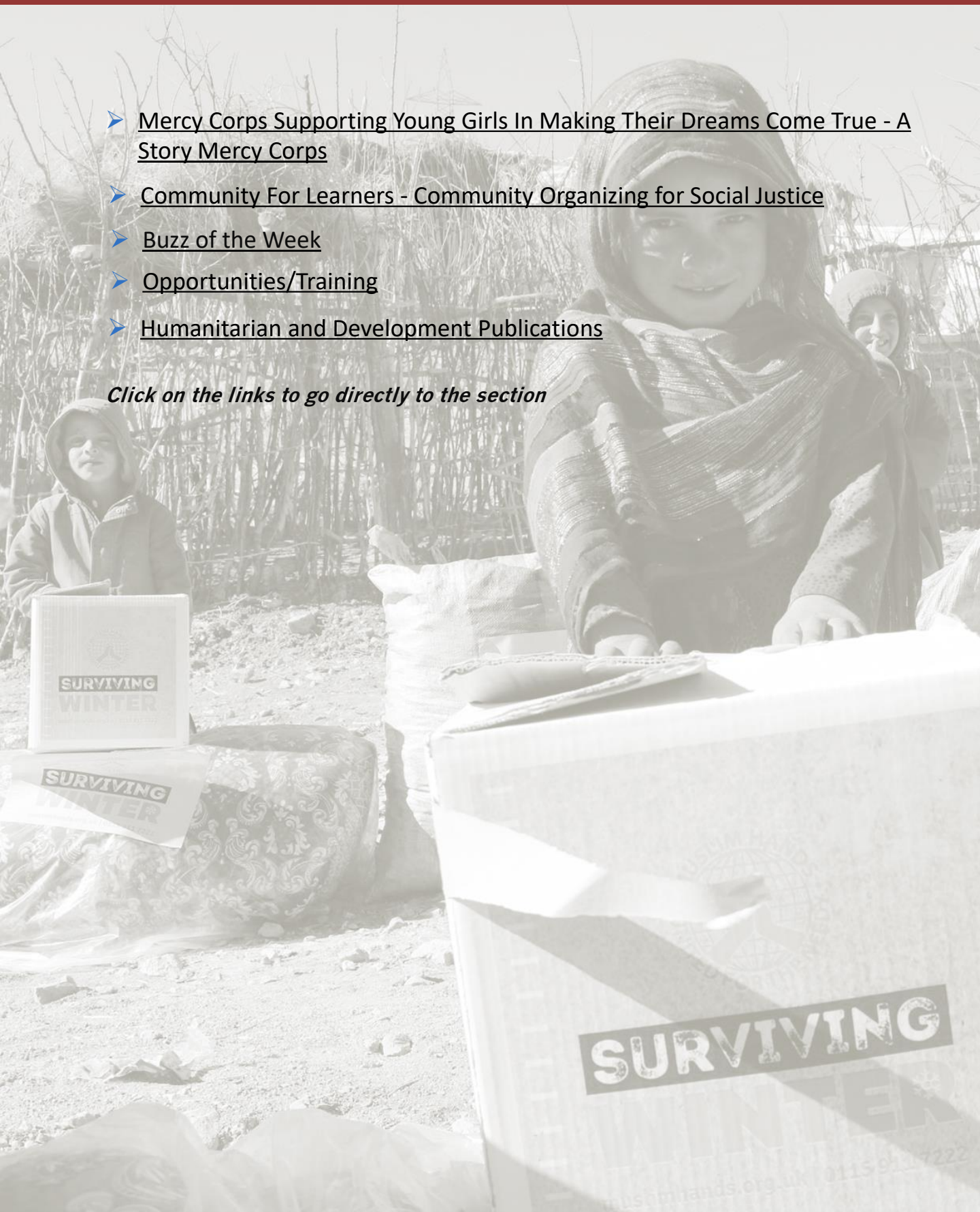
9th May 2022 – 15th May 2022



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TRANSFORMING LIVES, MEMBERS IN ACTION



Dream Big!

**Mercy Corps supporting young girls
in making their dreams come true**

Mercy Corps supporting young girls in making their dreams come true



By Mercy Corps

How often do we achieve a desire on the very first of a mere try? For Fazila, an Afghan child living in Pakistan, many things have required sacrifices and struggles, but in the catalog of her hardships, no category consists of "painting". "It all just happens flawlessly", says Fazila "as if I only imagine the colors, and everything sorts up alright – on its own... flawlessly".

Fouzia is studying in one of the schools supported under PRM supported Program for Retention, Enrollment, and Protection (PREP-II) in Schools for Afghan Refugees and Host Community in Quetta. Mercy Corps is implementing this three-year program in 13 peri-urban locations of Quetta, Balochistan province.

In 2017, Fazila dropped out of her school in 7th Grade due to the financial limitations of her family and lack of support especially her brother. Back at school, she had to balance time – a clocked equilibrium for arts and academics. While being dropped out, all the hands on her clock were ticking only for the artist. "That's the best thing about painting" with confidence in her eyes, Fazila states "no one can restrict your imagination. I didn't have coloring sets or charts back then, but I could still imagine the colors that would be on the imaginary artwork of the walls in my house". Surrendering to her ever-popping requests of watercolors, her father brought her a pack of three colors – it was all that he could afford as a 45-year-old sole earner of a family of eight members. Blossomed in the joy of coloring, she spent hours on her artboard of a wall – outlining, sketching, and coloring her forever imaginative painting on the wall. Then, the beauty of her artboard of a wall could only be found parallel to the intensity of her desires to more – imagine more, sketch more, color more. While the first of her mores was bound to none, the rest of the two demanded resources – none that she could buy through her pocket money, or her father could spare through his daily wages.

Knowing of Fazila's desires, one of her friends informed her of Mercy Corps' PREP-II Project which was supporting dropout girls with re-enrolment and financial support. After successful mobilization activities of the PREP-II Team, Fazila re-enrolled in her school and was now back again to being both a cheerful artist and a freewill student. Mercy Corps team not only supported her to get re-enrolled in the school but also provided her uniform and stationary to help her study. In addition, like other students supported under the program, Mercy Corps also provides a monthly stipend to not only encourage the parents to send their children to school but also to support the family in covering some of the expenses.

Soon after joining back her school, the envelope of her creative skills did not remain sealed for long and her teacher soon became aware of the artist in her class. *"When I asked her of her inspirations to draw" Fazila's teacher mentioned, "she said: Madam, its colors... I first think of colors and then of the sketch that will compliment those colors."* After painting several artworks for her school, she participated in her first creative contest: *The Intra-State Drawing Competition. Her energy was fueled by her biology teacher who mentored her throughout the contest. "I only participated because she [teacher] asked me to,"* Fazila remembers her pre-contest thoughts. I like my artwork and I know it looks pretty and, (pupils up) at least to me, (pupils down) but... (expanding her iris) Contests? Competitions? Nah.

Mercy Corps supporting young girls in making their dreams come true



By Mercy Corps

In the three-hour time frame of the competition, Fazila drew a painting of a girl holding a globe, portraying the empowered message of “All Girls, hold their World, in their own Hands” – a message she equipped herself with during the life skill sessions conducted by Mercy Corps in her school.

As the concept of her image was announced, applause sheered among the attendees of the competition, and there and then, she was awarded the winning prize for her conceptual creativity. Fazila now aims high above the stars; she wants to embed the dancing colors of her imaginative artworks into embroidery – a skill that she is currently pursuing to learn after her school classes.

Mercy Corps supports 2,058 students in project supported 30 government schools (894 girls, 525 boys) and 16 Accelerated Learning Program Centers (409 girls, 230 boys) through monthly stipend. To further make the schools a safe place, Mercy Corps also conducts regular sessions on life skills and provides child protection awareness and services in the project supported schools including that of Fazila. Capacity building of teachers, rehabilitation of WASH facilities, provision of safe spaces, implementation of COVID-19 SOPs and awareness messages around COVID-19 prevention are also some of the activities being undertaken in government schools as part of the project.



Community Organizing for Social Justice

In this course, students will study strategies for community organizing for social justice in a diverse, democratic society. Topics include the core concepts of social justice, practical steps for community-building, and how to develop action plans. The course is based on those working for community change in the metropolitan Detroit area, but it's useful for anyone no matter where they live. Professor of Social Work Barry Checkoway teaches the course.



What you will learn (excerpt)

- Define social justice, community, organizing, and leaders
- Explore stereotypes, discrimination, and social identity
- Develop better communication skills and how to navigate tough conversations
- Learn the seven steps to creating change
- Understand the different elements of strategy for community organizing



Free Course

How you will learn

This beginner course is divided into six weeks and takes about eight hours total to complete. Coursework includes videos, readings, discussion prompts and forums, and graded assignments. These are six reflections asking about your comprehension of that week's topic. When you audit, you can see the reflections, but you can't submit for a grade. At the time of writing, the course had a 4.8/5 user rating.



Flexible deadlines

Reset deadlines in accordance to your schedule.



Shareable Certificate

Earn a Certificate upon completion



100% online

Start instantly and learn at your own schedule.



Beginner Level



Approx. 8 hours to complete



English

Subtitles: Arabic, French, Portuguese (European), Italian, Vietnamese, German, Russian, English, Spanish



CLICK HERE





Pakistan is in the grip of a blistering heatwave, with parts of the nation already scorched by temperatures of nearly 50C as officials warn of acute water shortages and a threat to health. Swathes of Pakistan have been smothered by high temperatures since late April, in extreme weather the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has warned is consistent with climate change. [Read more](#)

Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday said that water stress is a very real danger for Pakistan which is causing natural disasters like melting glaciers, patchy rainfall, and silting up of the Indus River as it heads towards south. The minister also mentioned a news report link saying, "The UN lists Pakistan among 'drought-hit' countries - And rightly points out the need for urgent financing for 23 countries facing desertification. [Read more](#)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday urged the federal and provincial governments in Pakistan to review movement restrictions under the exemption policy to minimize disruption to the food supply chain. This action is important to prepare for the emergence of a new COVID-19 variant or another pandemic, according to an ADB report on the continuing impacts of the pandemic on farm households in Pakistan. [Read more](#)

Commissioner Lahore Capt (retd) Muhammad Usman has released a video message regarding dengue awareness in which he said that dengue positive cases were increasing in the world and there was no choice but to be extremely careful. He said dengue cases were on the rise in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Malaysia during the current year and the climate of Pakistan was also conducive to dengue during the rains in coming weeks. [Read more](#)

Announcing to launch a vigorous anti-dengue drive, Chief Minister Mr. Hamza Shehbaz directed the authorities concerned to devise an effective surveillance system apart from reactivating anti-dengue teams through timely arrangements of quality spray and pesticides. He asked the Health department to ensure dengue test at a fixed rate.

Canada's Assistant Deputy Minister for Global Affairs Paul Thoppil has said that the recent signing of the framework by Canadian firm Barrick Gold for the re-launching of the Reko Diq mining project has the potential for Canada to be one of the largest foreign investor in Pakistan. He highlighted a significant high-level engagement over the past year between both countries, including calls between foreign ministers of both countries as well as a visit of Canada's deputy foreign minister to Pakistan. [Read more](#)

The National Institute of Health (NIH) on Sunday decided to increase the scope of the ongoing Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) of inbound travelers at international airports across the country in view of the global coronavirus situation. NIH added that the main aim of the decision was to remain vigilant and conduct surveillance and monitoring at entry points to rapidly detect any infected case. [Read more](#)

TEARFUND: Job Advertisement

tearfund

Please see the vacancy in the table below. Any interested candidates must send an updated CV and cover letter to pakistan-jobs@tearfund.org. Applicants must clearly state the position being applied for in the subject line of the email.

The closing date for receiving applications is May 26th, 2022. Only Short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview.

1. Field Officer

The Field Officer will be responsible for maintaining grassroots relationships with diverse, multi-faith communities, Afghan Youth and the Faith Friends groups in target areas. [Click here](#) for more information.

2. Project Assistant - Peshawar

The Project Assistant is expected to closely work with their line manager to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the project. [Click here](#) for more information.

3. Monitoring And Evaluation Assistant

The Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant is responsible for providing technical input and support to the Project Manager in managing the M&E component of the project. [Click here](#) for more information.

4. Project Assistant - Islamabad

The Project Assistant is expected to closely work with their line manager to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the project [Click here](#) for more information.

5. Finance Assistant

Finance Assistant will support the Finance team in day-to-day operations. Finance Assistant will help in processing payments maintaining cost reports screening and processing vendor's invoices. [Click here](#) for more information.

6. Driver

To drive organization vehicles safely and keep other related machines running well. To compile all the relevant records and documentation as required/ log books. [Click here](#) for more information.

7. Social Mobilizer

The social mobilizer is responsible for efficient, effective and timely implementation of its community mobilization component under the Project. [Click here](#) for more information.

Seasonal water outlook and implications for farmers in the Indus basin

The cryosphere -- snow, ice, and permafrost -- is an important source of water in the Hindu Kush Himalaya. Observed and projected estimates of cryosphere show changes in the timing and magnitude of stream flows across the region. Snow is important for seasonal water availability, particularly in the early melt season, and is a critical source of water for irrigation for some 1.65 billion people living in the river valleys downstream. It is estimated that snow and glacier melt contribute more than 50% of total flow in the Indus Basin Irrigation System – the world’s largest contiguous irrigation system, which irrigates some 2.5 million acres. [Read more.](#)

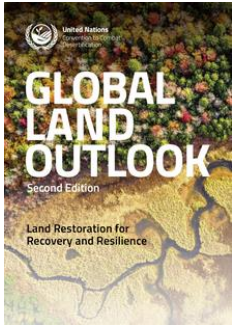


Global Land Outlook Second Edition: Land Restoration for Recovery and Resilience

Up to 40 % of the planet’s land is degraded, directly affects half of humanity, threatens roughly half of global GDP (US\$44 trillion). If business as usual continued through 2050, report projects additional degradation of an area almost the size of South America

Nations’ current pledge to restore 1 billion degraded hectares by 2030 requires \$US 1.6 trillion this decade – a fraction of annual \$700 billion in fossil fuel and agricultural subsidies

[Read more](#)

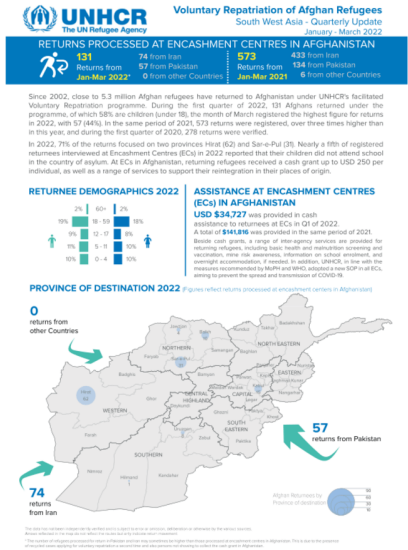


Pakistan: Voluntary Repatriation of Afghan Refugees: Southwest Asia - Quarterly Update (January - March 2022)

Since 2002, close to 5.3 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan under UNHCR's facilitated Voluntary Repatriation programme. During the first quarter of 2022, 131 Afghans returned under the programme, of which 58% are children (under 18), the month of March registered the highest figure for returns in 2022, with 57 (44%). In the same period of 2021, 573 returns were registered, over three times higher than in this year, and during the first quarter of 2020, 278 returns were verified.

In 2022, 71% of the returns focused on two provinces Hirat (62) and Sar-e-Pul (31). Nearly a fifth of registered returnees interviewed at Encashment Centres (ECs) in 2022 reported that their children did not attend school in the country of asylum. At ECs in Afghanistan, returning refugees received a cash grant up to USD 250 per individual, as well as a range of services to support their reintegration in their places of origin.

[Read more](#)





**TOGETHER FOR RESILIENT
AND PROSPEROUS
PAKISTAN**



CONTACT US



info@pakhumanitarianforum.org



Plot # 35, Street 22, G-8/4,
Islamabad



<https://pakhumanitarianforum.org/>



+92 51 225 2230-31



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