

## Final REPORT

### HARES YOUSSEF GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

Formerly

**Government Girls High School,  
Wasti Chowki, Nar Sher Ali Khan, Bagh,  
Azad Jammu and Kashmir,  
Pakistan.**

### Permanent School Building Structure

## Final REPORT

**Supported by: Mr. Hares Youssef – 2007 Grand Patron of Foundation for  
UNESCO - Education for Children in Need**

**Through**

**Foundation for UNESCO - Education for Children in Need**

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**2. Title of Project:**

**Reconstruction of school in AJK  
Hares Youssef Girls High School  
Formerly Government Girls High School  
Wasti Chowki, Nar Sher Ali Khan,  
Dhulli, District Bagh**

**3. Country:**

Pakistan/AJK.



**Executive Summary:**

The earthquake disaster of 8th October 2005 has left many tragedies behind, adding to the miseries of the poor and has brought down middle-income class to lower income levels. In district Bagh there are a total of 970 schools, which were totally or partially damaged because of the earthquake and children were the most who suffered by not only losing their lives, but those who survived, had to live with the trauma and disruption in their education. Therefore, there was a dire need to provide children a safe and comfortable place to continue their studies.

On behalf of Mr. **Hares Youssef** the grand patron for Foundation for UNESCO, the foundation together with its local partner built the earthquake resistant permanent school building “**HARES YOUSSEF GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**” (formerly Government Girls High School) Wasti Chowki, Nar Sher Ali Khan, in Bagh, AJK, Pakistan. The high school building

was completed with the kind support of Mr. **Hares Youssef** through the Foundation for UNESCO - Education for Children in Need. The completion of this project helped the girls in the age bracket of 3 to 18 years (pre-nursery until secondary level) to start and to continue their studies in a safe and children friendly environment.

The total number of direct beneficiaries is **225 pupils of the Girls High School and 15 teachers and one school principle**. The completion of school building has greatly alleviated the burden of the teachers and now they are charged with positive energy and are more motivated and enthusiastic to teach the future of Kashmir. The overall population of the Union Council Nar Sher Ali Khan with 12.000 inhabitants is also benefiting, as this school is the only Girls high schools in the whole of Union Council.

The school building consist of **8 class rooms, 1 staff room, 1 admin office, 1 principal room and 1 science lab**. There are **6 toilets for pupils, 4 for school staff and 2 for admin staff and principal**. The building also has **one store room and one kitchen**.

The covered area for the main building is **6816.30 sft**, covered area for student's toilets is 258.26 sft, for kitchen 46.44 sft and for store covered area is 46.44. The overall total covered area of the girls high school is about 7167.44 sft.

**Objective:**

***To encourage rehabilitation by providing an earthquake resistant permanent school building for continuation of education for the children of Kashmir.***



**Court Yard of the Girls School**

**Area/Cultural set up:**

The District Bagh of Azad Kashmir, with a total population of 434.300, covers 1.398 square kilometres. The population density is 317 persons / square kilometre, with a population growth rate of 2% per annum and an average household size of 9.6<sup>1</sup>.

The District Bagh is an economically deprived area, with an average household income of PKR 2.150.-(EUR 30.26) per month. Most of the inhabitants rely on agriculture, with at least one member of each family seeking work elsewhere in the country on menial jobs. The local land holdings in the area are approximately 2.000 square meters per family on terraced mountainsides with poor crop yields. The population residing in the area can thus be categorized as extremely poor.

Before the earthquake of 2005, a total of 970 schools existed in District Bagh, out of which 825 were completely destroyed and 145 moderately destroyed. The destruction of these educational facilities made the children the most effected segment, as a very large number of children not only lost their lives but those who survived, had to live with the trauma and disruption in their education. Therefore, it was important and top most priority to provide the children with a safe and comfortable place to continue their studies but also to overcome the trauma of experiencing the destruction and loss of loved ones so that they could move on with their lives.

**Need/Problem Analysis:**

The Government Girls High school, Wasti Chowki, Nar Sher Ali Khan was completely destroyed in the earthquake. The school has a total strength of 225 students, 15 teachers and a principal. Being the only Girls High School in the Union Council gives it an even greater value and high priority.

Our local partner has been operating in the project area from the second day of the earthquake, starting in Bagh city. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2005, a field office / base camp was established in Nar Sher Ali Khan, about 20 kilometres to the East of Bagh city. From day one, a very close coordination was maintained with the UN, the Education Department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and other partner NGOs/Ingo's working in the area for better implementation and to avoid duplication.

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<sup>1</sup> Project population based on the 1998 Census, statistics Section, Planning and Development Department, Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

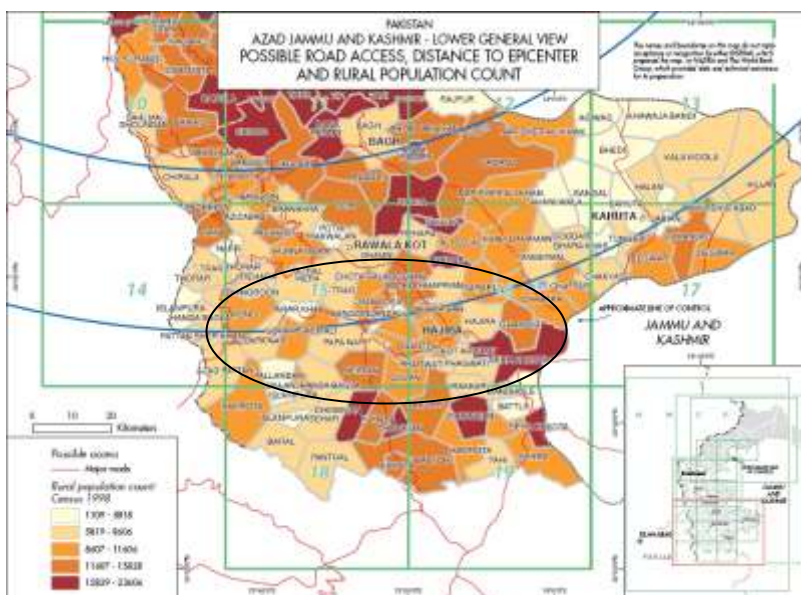
Various other partners were actively involved in the relief and rehabilitation activities in the Union Council Nar Sher Ali Khan (NSAK), and developed a very strong bond with the local people. In year 2006 UNESCO Special Ambassador Ute-Henriette Ohoven visited Kashmir to show her support with the people of Kashmir. During her visit, UNESCO Special Ambassador Ute-Henriette Ohoven also visited the Government Girls High School. The students of schools welcomed her with songs, reciting poems and speeches by teachers, students and other local notables. In their speeches they highlighted that they give greater importance to girl's education and want the school building to be built as soon as possible as otherwise pupils will not be able to continue their studies. They requested UNESCO Special Ambassador Ute-Henriette Ohoven to help them build the school building at the earliest. Therefore, very graciously **Mrs. Ohoven coordinated with Mr. Hares Youssef** and arranged for the funds to build the Government Girls High School.

**Beneficiaries:**

The total number of **direct beneficiaries is 225 students of the school, 15 teachers and one school principle.** The number of students will increase as now building is complete and this is the first Girls High School in the union council, which has been completed with earthquake resistant permanent building structure.

**Location:**

**The Hares Youssef Girls High School** is located in union council Nar Sher Ali Khan, Bagh. The Union Council NSAK has an approximate population of 12.000 people and is about 16 kilometres from Bagh city in the North East of the District Bagh, Azad Kashmir.



**Map 1: Target area in oval circle**

## **Facilities:**

**The school building consist of 8 class rooms, 1 staff room, 1 admin office, 1 principal room and 1 science lab. There are 6 toilets for pupils, 4 for school staff and 2 for admin staff and principal. The building also has one store room and one kitchen. The total covered area is 7167.44 sqf.**

The building has now a RCC structure with a steel roof. While constructing the building no quality-compromise was made. The building is now of an earthquake resistant structure.

## **Methodology:**

All rules and regulations by the Government of Pakistan and Government of Kashmir were followed regarding the building codes. The Government of Pakistan had established an Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) to monitor and control all activities in the earthquake effected area.

All the agencies are required to submit their project details to ERRA and obtain a “No Objection Certificate”, which was also obtained for the Girls High School. As per ERRA requirements the architectural, engineering, electrical and public health designs were submitted to and subsequently approved by National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK) and ERRA before construction could start.

The work was commenced in July 2006, by the verbal go ahead by the authorities. Whereas NOC and MOU were signed later subsequently to the approval by NESPAK for the designs and the structural stability. The NOC from ERRA was obtained only on the 8th of December, 2006 vide their official letter number No.2 (15)/2006/ (D&SCC).

Subsequent to the issuance of NOC an MOU for the construction of the permanent structures was signed between our local implementing partner and ERRA on the 18th of January, 2007.

We hired one of the leading Architecture and Engineering firms M/S DESIGNMAN (Pvt.) Ltd. to design the structure and to provide consultancy services and quality certification during the course of construction. M/S DESIGNMAN also assisted in preparing and developing the Bill of Quantities for the works as well as selection of the contractor. The contractor, M/S MASCON ASSOCIATES was selected after due deliberations and background checks for

the execution of works. The contractor has extensive experience of about 12 years in the field of building constructions including constructions in mountainous areas.

During the execution of the works, the soil testing and site stability report were also checked by and established in cooperation with M/S GEOENGINEERS.



**School main building under construction**



**Foundations**

The designs, plans and the quality control reports of materials used in the construction are available in hard copies at our local partner HOPE'87-Pakistan/ Islamabad Office for perusal.

During the construction period, all relevant Government Authorities, Line Departments and Ministries, the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), the District Reconstruction Unit (DRU) and the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator (UNORC), formerly United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) were kept informed of the project progress. The ERRA and DRU made surprise visits to the construction site to check the quality and standards of works and appreciated the quality of work.

**Additional works:**

In cooperation with ANT-Hiroshima, a Japanese NGO, we and our partners also provided basic furniture for the Boys High School as well as psychosocial support through art and play and sport activities.

The schools furniture includes chairs, desks, black boards, water coolers, dust bins, posters, heaters, a World map, shelves and books for school library.

**Recommendation:**

The “Hares Youssef Girls High School” (formerly Government Girls High School) is the only Girls High School in the union council of NSAK, with a population of 12,000. With the reconstruction of the school building and being the first school building completed with earthquake resistant structure in the area a landmark was achieved. This completion has helped in normalisation of the education in that particular area. It would be most important now, that we equip the school lab with all the necessary items so that all the present and future students of the school could continue their studies in science subjects and do the necessary experiments and practical in science lab.