



UK Registered Charity No: 1113836



KORT Newsletter Issue No: 22 – Jan 2021

Assalamu Alaykum and Hello!

HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome to our 22nd KORT Newsletter.

From a deadly pandemic to a global movement for racial justice, the year 2020 experienced some world-shifting events!

With **YOUR** support, KORT made a huge difference to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in Azad Kashmir and saved thousands of families from hunger across Azad Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and Pakistan which drew special praise from the Prime Minister of Pakistan: Honourable Imran Khan.

This newsletter is a chance for us to say **THANK YOU** for your generosity, passion, and commitment, and to update **YOU** on how **YOUR** support and contributions have made a difference to the lives of the orphan children in our care, and the poor & vulnerable people of Azad Kashmir & Pakistan.

KORT MANAGEMENT, UK

OUR CHAIRMAN AWARDED TAMGHA-E-IMTIAZ



Since 2005, KORT has been leading from the front to tackle poverty, providing hope to orphaned and abandoned children, assisting the disabled, and providing emergency aid to people affected by natural disasters across Azad Kashmir and Pakistan.

Hundreds of orphan children have been served at KORT since 2005 and KORT has also been instrumental in assisting people affected by natural disasters during the past 15 years.

In recognition of the outstanding achievements of KORT, our Chairman Ch. Mohammed Akhtar was awarded with the Tamgha-E-Imtiaz Award (Highest Civilian Honour) in September, which is a state-organised honour of Pakistan.

Our Chairman would like to thank and dedicate this award to his family, the children of KORT, the Trustees, the staff, and to all our Muskorteers and donors from around the world.

LUNCHEON AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

A big honour for KORT! The Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. Asad Qaiser gave a luncheon at the Parliament House in Islamabad in honour of our Chairman Ch. Mohammad Akhtar and to acknowledge the endeavours of KORT.

Several dignitaries were also present including The Defence Minister of Pakistan Mr. Pervez Khattak, Federal Minister Raja Khurram Nawaz and former Air Chief Mr. Sohail Amman.

We would like to dedicate this honour to all our donors, supporters and Muskorteers.



EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR DEVASTATED RESIDENTS ALONG THE LOC (LINE OF CONTROL) IN AJK

Many innocent civilians were affected by a ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC) between Pakistan and India in November which resulted in the loss of life and property.

Residents on the Pakistan LoC were facing some tough few months as temperatures dropped below freezing and many villages would have been cut off by the snow. Thanks to our generous donors, over £70,000 was raised in under 3 days to support the affected people.

Hundreds of food packs, quilts, and CGI sheets to put on roofs to allow snow to fall off easily and minimise damage to houses were provided to the victims in various locations within Neelam and Leepa Valley. Families who had their houses destroyed were given 2.5 lakh rupee cheques each to rebuild their homes and 50,000-rupee cheques each were issued to families who incurred partial damage to their homes. This was one of the most dangerous and toughest trips faced by Team KORT due to the ongoing cross-border firing and adverse weather conditions.

Thank you to all our donors who supported this appeal and a special thank you to our staff and Muskorteers who went above and beyond the call of duty to support humanity in their time of need.



KORT SPORTS COMPLEX

Today, teaching is not limited to just the classrooms. There are many skills that a child acquires on a playground such as making rapid decisions under pressure, leadership, teamwork, courage, mental agility and finding creative solutions to solve problems. Furthermore, career options in sports have increased exponentially with the establishment of various sports leagues in Pakistan such as the Pakistan Super League (Cricket) and the Pakistan Premier League (Football).

To aid the development of such skills and to promote a healthy lifestyle, a Sports Complex was built on the grounds of KORT which includes a football pitch, cricket practice nets, a basketball court, and a tennis court.

The Sports Complex was inaugurated in October by the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. Asad Qaiser and the Owner of the Lahore Qalanders Cricket Team, Mr. Fawad Rana. Mr Rana also pledged to provide an opportunity for one student from KORT to train at the Lahore Qalanders Cricket Facilities with the aim of pursuing a career in cricket.

Thank you to all our donors and Muskorteers who supported this noble cause especially our dear Muskorteers; Brother Imraan Karim & family (Dubai) and Brother Rauf Akbar & family (Derby, UK).



KORT NO.2 TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN ALAMABAD SWABI, KPK PAKISTAN!

A large portion of the population in Pakistan lives below the poverty line and it is the orphan children who often suffer the most.

With the success of KORT in Mirpur Azad Kashmir, we will be constructing another much needed orphans home for up to 300 orphan boys in Alamabad, Swabi, KPK Pakistan starting in January 2021.

The project will cost approximately £900,000 to build and will include: a hostel for up to 300 orphan boys, a mess/dining hall, an Islamic Studies & staff residential block, and an admin & library block.

Keep a lookout on our website for more information and how you can donate towards this project. www.kort.org.uk



KORT CONSTRUCTS A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MAWA ISLAMGHAR

As part of our initiative 'Education for every Child', we have built a much-needed Primary School in Mawa Islamgarh, Mirpur, Azad Kashmir.

School facilities can have a profound impact on both teacher and student outcomes. With respect to teachers, school facilities affect teacher recruitment, retention, commitment, and effort. With respect to students, school facilities affect health, behaviour, engagement, learning, and growth in achievement.

The School facility has been built with the aim to provide basic primary education in a good standard environment to make it comfortable and accessible for young learners from local villages. On completion, the keys were handed over to the District Education Officer from the Department of Education in Mirpur Azad Kashmir.

We would like to thank our generous donors from Malawi, Africa who sponsored this project, and we pray to The Almighty that he accepts their contributions and grants them continuous reward on behalf of all the children who receive education at this facility.

"He who opens a school door closes a prison"

Victor Hugo



UMRAH 2020 UPDATE

Since 2016, a small group of orphan children are sponsored to perform Umrah during December each year. The trip is an opportunity for the children to gain valuable social skills, meeting people from different backgrounds and cultures, and experience travelling abroad for the first time.

13 lucky children were also sponsored to perform Umrah in 2020, however, due to the uncertainty of flights and Umrah visa availability caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we have decided to postpone the Umrah trip until December 2021.

Thank you to our generous donors who supported this appeal.

SEWING MACHINES & WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTIONS IN AJK & PAKISTAN

“The best of people are those that bring the most benefit to the rest of mankind.”

Prophet Muhammed ﷺ (Daraqutni-Hasan)

As part of our ongoing sustainability and support programs, hundreds of wheelchairs and sewing machines have been distributed on behalf of our donors who contributed towards these appeals during the year.

Since Ramadan, we have executed successful wheelchair distributions in Islamabad and Swabi in the presence of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan Mr. Asad Qaiser, in Dina in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner of Jhelum, Rao Pervaiz Akhtar and the Assistant Commissioner of Dina, Anisha Hisham, and in Muzaffarabad in the presence of the President of Azad Jammu & Kashmir Sardar Masood Ahmed Khan and the Minister of Social Welfare, Madam Noreen Arif.

Hundreds of sewing machines were also provided to the poor and unemployed women and widows of Swabi KPK Pakistan so they can earn a living and support their families.

Thank you to all our amazing donors and Muskorteers for supporting these projects.



HAPPY FAMILIES!

KORT found itself in the middle of a high intensity Earthquake on the 24th of September 2019 in which 41 people were martyred and a further 850 injured. With widespread damage to buildings and other infrastructure, KORT pledged to build 150 homes for the poor & needy whose homes were demolished by the Earthquake or damaged beyond economical repair.

Despite encountering delays during the year due to Covid-19 lockdowns, over 100 houses have been built and handed over to the needy families and we hope to complete the remaining houses including the KORT Village by early 2021.

Thank you to all our donors and Muskorteers who supported this noble cause.



THOUSANDS HAVE LIVED WITHOUT LOVE, NOT ONE HAS LIVED WITHOUT WATER!

Unsafe water is the single biggest obstacle to the health of communities in the developing world. Small children are especially vulnerable to cholera and diarrheal illnesses, and unsafe water compromises their immune systems making it difficult for them to fight illnesses.

With the support of our generous donors, we have already built Water Filtration Plants in Kotli, Abdupur, Islamghar, Jorriyan Malikabad and Panyam Chakswari AJK. Another 40 plants will also be completed within the next few months. Each Filtration Plant will help thousands of people with clean drinking water. Thank you to all our donors and Muskorteers who have supported this noble cause.



08.10.2005 - WE WILL NEVER FORGET!

8th October 2020 marked 15 years since a devastating earthquake claimed over 80,000 thousand lives across Azad Kashmir and 15 years since the inception of KORT. Our Annual Remembrance Rally attracted hundreds of people in Mirpur to remember and pray for the martyrs of the 2005 and 2019 earthquakes.

Later that evening, an event was hosted by the children at KORT to celebrate our success. You can also watch the event by visiting our YouTube channel KORT TV.

Thank you to all our donors, supporters and Muskorteers from around the world who came to show their support.



RENOWNED ARTIST ATIF ASLAM VISITS KORT

One of the all-time best playback singers in the Indian and Pakistani music industries, Atif Aslam, visited KORT in August and was amazed by the high level of care and facilities provided for orphaned children. After having a tour of the Complex, Atif congratulated Team KORT for providing such a unique institution for orphaned and abandoned children who are often neglected by our societies.

We would like to thank Atif Aslam for visiting KORT and boosting the morale of the children and staff. A big thank you also to our Muskorteer Brother Imraan Karim and family from Dubai for arranging the visit.



QURBANI 2020

Praise be to The Almighty, this year we were able to carry out a record 105 Qurbanis of large animals as part of our Annual Qurbani Project for the poor & needy. Due to the volume of animals involved, the Qurbanis were carried out in the following 6 locations: Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Poonch, Kotli and Jhelum. Over 8,000 needy people were given 2kg worth of meat each, enough to provide a good meal for a family of 5 people. Thank you to all our donors who booked their Qurbani through KORT.



KARACHI FLOODS RELIEF

During August 2020, Karachi, the largest city of Pakistan experienced some of the most intense monsoon rains in years. Streets turned to rivers while stagnant water caused an increase in mosquitoes and other diseases.

KORT dispatched trucks full of medicine relief to help the neediest people in Karachi with the assistance of the Pakistan Army. Thank you to our generous donors and Muskorteers for supporting this appeal.



KORT COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Covid-19 pandemic is a global shock 'like no other', infecting millions and bringing economic activity to a near-standstill as countries imposed tight restrictions on movement to halt the spread of the virus.

Daily wage workers and the poor were the worst affected as they faced hunger and struggled to survive.

Team KORT was one of the first charities on the ground and played a huge role to help reduce the spread of the virus in Azad Kashmir by setting up quarantine centres, distributing Covid-19 awareness leaflets, providing masks, disinfectants, and other PPE's to thousands of people, and providing lifesaving ventilators to multiple hospitals who did not have any.

Thousands of needy families were also supported with food, medicine, and essential packs across Azad Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and Pakistan which was appreciated and recognised by the Prime Minister of Pakistan: Honourable Imran Khan.

Thanks to our Muskorteers Naseeb Abbas and Waseem Ahmed, the NHS hospitals in Leicester, one of the worst affected cities in the UK, were also provided with fans, hand creams, bottled water and snacks to boost the morale of staff in their fight against Covid-19.

Thank you to all our generous donors who supported our Covid-19 appeals despite their own lockdown struggles. A big thank you also to our amazing Muskorteers and staff who worked around the clock for the sake of humanity.



OUR PROJECTS & HOW YOU CAN HELP



ORPHANS HOME - ALAMABAD SWABI, KPK PAKISTAN

KORT will be building an orphan's home for up to 300 orphan boys in Alamabad, Swabi KPK Pakistan. Visit our website www.kort.org.uk to learn more about how you can help. Sadaqah, Lillah and Interest donations are accepted for this appeal.

DONATE ANY AMOUNT



BURNS CENTRE - MIRPUR AJK

A burn injury can be one of the most severe forms of trauma requiring specialised treatment. Due to a lack of burns services in AJK, KORT will be building a specialised Burns Centre in Mirpur AJK to meet these intricate needs. Sadaqah, Lillah and Interest donations are accepted for this appeal.

DONATE ANY AMOUNT



KORT SUSTAINABILITY

We have multiple teams of carers, cooks, cleaners, security staff, teachers, and admin staff at KORT who work around the clock to support our orphan children. You can donate any amount of Sadaqah, Zakat, Lillah and Interest funds towards the running of the KORT Educational Complex.

DONATE ANY AMOUNT



SPONSOR TOWARDS AN ORPHAN

KORT is home to hundreds of orphan children providing food, accommodation, clothing, medical care, and education at a cost of up to £70 per month per child. You can contribute towards the costs by sponsoring towards an orphan at £35 per month.

JOIN THE WAITING LIST
EMAIL: admin@kort.org.uk



WHEELCHAIR PROJECT

You can donate towards wheelchairs for the less able people of Pakistan/Azad Kashmir as part of our 'Turning Disability into Ability Program' @£65 per wheelchair. Sadaqah, Zakat, Lillah and Interest donations are accepted for this appeal.

£65.00 EACH



BECOME A MUSKORTEER

We have been blessed with many dedicated and passionate volunteers who sacrifice their time to help with fundraising and relief distributions for the pleasure and blessings of the Almighty. If you would like to volunteer for KORT, contact us on the email below.

EMAIL: admin@kort.org.uk

Gift Aid is a scheme available to charities where we can claim an additional 25% of the value of your donation from HMRC, from the tax that you pay on your income.

This does not affect you in any way and you do not need do anything apart from providing your consent for us to claim Gift Aid on your donation. Gift Aid funds are then used by us on our admin costs ensuring 100% of your donations are used on our projects.

GIFT AID

OUR UK BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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(Leicester) Chairman
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Nasar Farooq
(Leicester) Vice Chairman
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07853 785 709

Parvez Akhtar
(Birmingham) Trustee
07973 553 624

Mohammed Yaqoob
(Newcastle) Trustee
07581 123 325

HOW TO DONATE

The easiest way to donate to KORT is by using either one of the following options:

- A) **Visit our website** - www.kort.org.uk
- B) **Ring us** on 0300 123 7774 / 07927 091 061 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)
- C) **Cheques:** Please make payable to Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust
- D) **Bank transfer** to either of our following bank accounts:
(Use your door number and postcode as the reference)



KORT Website QR Code

Bank Name: Barclays **Account Name:** Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust

General / Sadaqah
Sort Code: 20-49-11
Account No: 93309231

Zakat
Sort Code: 20-49-17
Account No: 13444112

Lillah
Sort Code: 20-49-11
Account No: 43084736

To donate from outside the UK:
SWIFTBIC: BUKBGB22
IBAN: GB79 BUKB 2049 1193 3092 31

Alternatively, complete the form below to donate by a one-off card payment or to setup a monthly direct debit.
Post all completed forms to our Leicester Office address below.

STEP 1: YOUR DETAILS

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Surname: _____
Address: _____ Postcode: _____
Tel: _____ Email: _____

STEP 2: DONATION DETAILS

PROJECT NAME: _____ **AMOUNT:** _____
DONATION TYPE: Sadaqah Lillah Zakat Other
PAYMENT METHOD: Cash Cheque BACs Card D/Debit Standing Order

STEP 3: YOUR PAYMENT

**One-off
Card Payment**

**Monthly
Direct Debit**

Name on Card: _____
Card Number: _____
Expiry date: ____/____ CVC (Last 3 digits on the back): _____

Name of Bank: _____
Account holder Name: _____
Sort Code: ____ - ____ - ____ Account No: _____
Amount: _____ Date: 1st 15th of the month

STEP 4: GIFT AID DECLARATION

I am a UK taxpayer and would like Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust to treat donations I have made for the four years prior to this year, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise. I will notify the charity if I want to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address, or no longer pay enough tax on my income and/or capital gains. If I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in the current tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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FINAL STEP: COMMUNICATION PREFERENCE

We would like to keep you updated with our news, activities and appeals. Your details will ONLY be stored by KORT. You can ask us to remove you from our database at any time and we will never give your information to other organisations. Please tell us if you are happy for us to contact you via:

Phone Post SMS/WhatsApp Email All None

CONTACT US



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