

Bridge Communications & Research - BCR

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Bridge-Europa - July 2013

Connecting People - Building Bridges – Spreading Harmony

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Editor's Note: The idea of Bridge-Europa has been put together after a yearlong research in Pakistan, more than anticipated impact of Bridge-US (newsletter dedicated for the USAID to Pakistan) and following the demands by our colleagues outside USA. Bridge-Europa will also add more transparency and outreach as people have started questioning to the incumbents in Pakistan about the spending of funds, material and support released by the international donors. We believe that Bridge-Europa will work positively to appease anti-western sentiments in Pakistan. A wide portion in Pakistan is absolutely not aware about

the donations, aid, grants and support of the EU and other developed countries as common citizens don't get the benefits of this aid as it supposed to be. Bad governance and corruption also play a major role in exploiting of those funds or directing the aid to the NGOs run by their cronies and family. We think Bridge-Europa has also become a necessity after a recent spike in hate crimes around the world.

Likewise Bridge-US, we are also planning to publish Bridge-Europa in paper with Urdu and likely in Pushto but our resources are very limited with higher security risks and we need your support to make this happen. Your feedback is highly appreciated! What about writing a review or putting a message? It's about Policy, Awareness, Diversity and Peace.

Sincerely

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The objectives and Why Bridge-Europa?

- Create awareness in general public about the EU/Western support and lifesaving efforts in Pakistan.
- Promote more cooperation and harmony among citizens of Pakistan and EU/Western through awareness and public diplomacy.
- Connect donors and people for the maximum usage of funds and eliminate corruption
- Aware Pakistani youths/ professionals and general public about scholarships, professional/ career development opportunities and exchange programs.
- Withstand against increasing hate crimes and faith division

Why Bridge-Europa?

Despite the colossal and continuing EU aid, sacrifices of the NATO troops and journalists, EU role to save lives in disaster and help Pakistan from toys to advanced technology, anti-western sentiments are all time high. This is because people do not know about all of it and EU media campaigns worth millions of dollars seem to achieve no results. Bridge-Europa will reach to the underprivileged people where poverty and fanaticism is preying on youth to radicalism. Bridge-Europa is free and our demographic research and email access will deliver Bridge-Europa where it's really needed and also to the places with public access to send out a message of harmony, acceptance and dialogue. A safer Pakistan is a step towards better world. As long as animosities exist nobody can work to improve pathetic conditions to poverty, disease, human rights, corruption, strong democracy climate, Iced Himalaya and wild life in Pakistan.

Fact Sheet on Danish Humanitarian assistance to Pakistan in 2010- 2011

I: Humanitarian Assistance for the flood victims in 2010 – DKK 130 million (USD 22 million)

The Danish response to the massive floods in 2010 was provided through:

1. iNGO registered in Denmark, such as Save the Children, DanChurchAid, Danish Red Cross and Danish Mission Council these organisations work through local partners in Pakistan that are able to respond quickly;
2. the UN system, including UNHCR, WFP and UNOCHA
3. ICRC and
4. Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA). The distribution amongst the groups was approximately one third for iNGOs, one third for UN organisations and one third for ICRC and DEMA together. The DEMA intervention – setting up four field hospitals in Sindh - proved especially useful treating about 150,000 patients during the three months period they were operational.

The enclosed table gives an overview of all 2010 contributions.

In 2011 a total of DKK 47,2 million (USD 8,8 million) in humanitarian support to people in Pakistan distributed as follows:

II: Protracted humanitarian support in 2011 – DKK 32 million (USD 6 million) Through Danish registered iNGOs support is being provided to families who lost their livelihood during the 2010 floods. Assistance is also provided for Afghan refugees within the framework of the RAHA strategy and for ICRC's work in the border areas.

III: Immediate Humanitarian Assistance for the flood victims in 2011 – DKK 15,2 million (USD 2,8 million) The 2011 immediate relief work related to the floods in Sindh, Balochistan and Southern Punjab has been supported via Danish registered iNGOs, the UN and NDMA:

Organisation	Amount in DKK	Purpose	Date of grant
Save the Children	4,200,000	Reestablishment of schools and Disaster Risk Reduction	
DanChurchAid	4,000,000	Improvement of food security for conflict affected families in Swat in KPK	
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	5,000,000	Support to Afghan refugees in camps in KPK province – DRC also implements project financed by UNHCR	
UNICEF	7,600,000	Flood affected people	
ICRC	11,000,000	Flood affected people	
Total On-going humanitarian projects	31,800,000		
Organisation	Amount in DKK	Purpose	Date of Grant
Danish Red Cross	1,000,000	Emergency relief for flood victims in Sindh – implementing partner: Pakistan Red Crescent	16.09.2011
Save the Children	750,000	Emergency relief for flood victims in Sindh	12.09.2011
DanChurchAid	545,000	Support for flood victims in Sindh – implementing partner: Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan via ACT	15.09.2011
Danish Emergency	50,000	Contribution to the EU-MIC Protection Team from	21.09.2011

Management Agency		ECHO to make assessment with Pakistani Authorities	
NDMA	300,000	Direct contribution to NDMA's assessment and relief operations	23.09.2011
Save the Children	5,000,000	Emergency relief for flood victims in Sindh through food, shelter, emergency medical care and child protection, education and nutrition interventions	19.10.2011
WFP	7,500,000	Food supplies to Pakistan	19.10.2011
Total	15,145,000		

In addition, the Danish iNGOs have provided funds out of own resources for an immediate response. Denmark has also provided core funding to the tune of DKK 50 million for UNCHR and corresponding amounts to WFP and UNICEF to allow these organisations to take immediate reaction whenever disaster strikes. This has also benefitted Pakistan. More Details <http://pakistan.um.dk/en/danida-en/humanitarian-aid/>

Danish Envoy puts special focus on care for diabetic children in Pakistan: *"Early childhood behaviours become habits, which are difficult to change later. Raising awareness of the risk of diabetes and related communicable diseases - and how to avoid them is imperative"* – Ole E. Moesby, Danish Ambassador to Pakistan.

Islamabad, PK - 26-06-2013 - "It is estimated that in Pakistan, obesity has tripled and blood pressure had doubled since 2009. This makes 9.6 million children in Pakistan either overweight or obese, out of which diabetes is one of the most common chronic conditions to affect these children". This was stated by the Danish ambassador, H.E. Ole E. Moesby during his visit to the SOS Children's Village in Rawalpindi.

Ambassador Moesby visited SOS Rawalpindi to meet teachers, families and children and speak to them about how to improve life quality through good healthcare. Ambassador Moesby also spoke about general health issues among children and the importance of establishing collaboration between teachers, parents and organizations in creating awareness on primary prevention of diabetes and issues of childhood obesity in particular.

"With more than 7 million diabetic patients in Pakistan, around five per cent of them are young children. However, these figures may be much higher, since many children, especially from poor and rural areas remain undiagnosed, as their parents or teachers often misdiagnose it as the flu and do not seek doctor's advice for a proper diagnosis, which creates a lot of health issues and impacts the quality of life for these children. Type-2 diabetes can be prevented through increasing physical activities and having a good diet plan, so a few preventive measures can help curb such a fatal disease. Awareness and education are they key words for prevention and cure", said Ambassador Moesby.

SOS Village Chairperson, Mrs Nasim Muzaffar appreciated Ambassador Moesby's commitment to advocating for awareness on healthcare. Ms. Muzaffar stated that SOS Village was providing a home and social environment for orphaned children across Pakistan but required the support of donors from both public and private sector to continue giving these children access to quality education, health and a 'fair start' in life. The Danish Ambassador also met with Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, President's Coordinator on Social Sectors to acknowledge the significant activities, which have been initiated to improve healthcare systems in Pakistan. The Danish Ambassador appreciated that Pakistan has been focusing on a public health system that places a high priority on communicable diseases and maternal and child health services and a private health system driven by curative medicine. He however emphasized that there was also need for a comprehensive health response to diabetes that addresses prevention, treatment, care and support needs for people with diabetes. Ambassador

Moesby highlighted that there was need for more advocacy and partnership with different agencies that can bring in the desired changes in the life of every person living with diabetes. Details

<http://pakistan.um.dk/en/about-us/news/newsdisplaypage/?newsID=3AC71C38-5610-47E0-8F22-7600B134ECCE>

Denmark supports Pakistan Conference to promote safety of journalists:

12.03.2013. With at least one journalist targeted every 28 days between 2007 and 2012, Pakistan makes for one of the most hazardous places in the world for journalists.

The Government of Denmark has in joint collaboration with UNESCO, OSF and IMS supported a two day international conference in Islamabad to set out to address the problem in a concerted manner. The conference also sets the stage for the launch of the so-called UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the issue of Impunity in Pakistan, which is a concerted approach to ensuring safe and enabling working environments for journalists around the world, with Pakistan being selected as a pilot country for the plan's initial implementation alongside Mexico, South Sudan, Nepal and Iraq.

Speaking at the conference, the Danish Ambassador Ole E. Moesby stated that "each time a journalist is silenced – either through threats or by being killed, it is an attack on the Pakistani citizen's right to information, which is a key enabling right for a strong democracy, education, cleaner environment, health, and a transparent business sector. The Government of Denmark has been supporting the Pakistani media through IMS, because we believe that the right to receive and express information and opinion is central to the life of everyone. This is a huge challenge and none of us hold the magic wand, but I want to assure that you have the support of the Danish Government to raise awareness on this very important issue and also to work collectively to find a solution."

The conference aims to establish two alliances – a 'Pakistan Alliance of Media on Safety' and an 'International Friends of Pakistan Media on Safety' – by linking up media defence groups from Pakistan with their key international level counterparts to facilitate networking on solutions and ideas as well as inflow of international support, advocacy expertise and technical assistance for Pakistan's media.

Honorary Consul General Irshaduddin has been appointed Knight of First Class of Dannebrog

2013, Ms. Naheed Irshaduddin, Honorary Consul General of Denmark in Karachi received the Knight of First Class and valuable service to Denmark. The Order was presented by Ambassador Ole E. Moesby on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen at a ceremony in Karachi.

Ms. Naheed Irshaduddin has been Honorary Danish Consul General in Karachi since February 2012 and before she was Honorary Danish Consul General from 1994-2012 and Honorary Danish Vice Consul since 1985.

Pakistani-Danish doctor receives the 'Defence Minister Medal'

February 13, *Pakistani-Danish* has been awarded the Defence Minister's honorary medal for his extraordinary contribution to providing relief efforts in Pakistan. Dr. Sohail received the medal by the Danish Defence Minister, Mr. Nick Haekkerup at a special reception in Copenhagen. Dr. Sohail coordinated a network of Danish doctors of Pakistani origin to join the Danish Emergency Field hospitals in Sindh. His efforts resulted in more than 150,000 people being given quality medical care over the last few months.

Pakistani Rock Group JUNOON:

Roskilde Festival 2013 has kicked off in Denmark. Did you know that the famous Pakistani Rock Group JUNOON was the first Asian music group to have performed at the RF?

This is one of the largest music festivals in Europe and is held each year in Denmark, attracting visitors from all over the world.

the world. Profits are donated to initiatives for children and young people, and other humanitarian causes.

50 years of Pakistan-German development cooperation: Development cooperation between Pakistan and Germany goes back to 1961, with the funding volume to date totalling some EUR 2.3 billion. Pakistan was thus one of Germany's first partner countries.

The regional focus of cooperation has traditionally been the north-west of the country. Germany is one of the few donors that has its own implementing structures in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and is one of the few partners of Pakistan carrying out measures in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Individual measures are also being implemented in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Punjab and Sindh. Funding was initially provided to the energy, industrial, transport and telecommunications sectors. Today, the priority areas of Pakistan-German development cooperation are good governance, energy, health and education including basic education as well as technical and vocational training.

In addition, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) supports Pakistan with refugee aid and in coping with natural disasters, most recently following the floods in 2010. These are known as development-oriented emergency and transitional aid measures. Equally, activities aimed at addressing the root causes of the crisis that led to military operations, are being implemented through substantive contributions to the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) and bilateral projects in the Malakand Division.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is involved in institution-building, deploying experts and knowledge transfer on behalf of BMZ. Financial cooperation is carried out by the KfW Entwicklungsbank. Furthermore, German Government funding is accorded to faith-based organisations, political foundations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which make important contributions to promoting democracy and human rights, developing rule of law and providing emergency relief, among other things.

We will inform you about all generous support of priority areas in Bridge-Europa September, 2013 issue and the Impacts of 50 years of Pakistan-German Development Cooperation. More Details
http://www.pakistan.diplo.de/Vertretung/pakistan/en/08_Develop_Cooperation/Development_20Cooperation.html

Japan to Provide US\$ 2.62 Million to UNICEF for Eradication of Polio in Pakistan

March 11, 2013 - A Grant Agreement on the provision of funds worth Two Hundred and Twenty Six million (226,000,000) Japanese Yen (US \$ 2,623,046) for "The Project for the Control and Eradication of Poliomyelitis" in Pakistan was executed between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the procurement of oral polio vaccine and social mobilization during the year 2013.

Mr. Akira Kono, Charge d Affaires, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan and Ms Karen Allen, Deputy Representative of UNICEF Pakistan, signed the Exchange of Notes. Mr. Toshiya Sato, Senior Representative of JICA and Ms Karen Allen signed the Grant Agreement for the release of funds for the said purpose.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Ministry of Inter-provincial Coordination, Government of Pakistan, Mr Faridullah Khan said, today's ceremony sends a strong message about the importance of partnership and ownership. At this critical time, he said, these types of opportunities assist to reinvigorate commitment and participation in the polio programme country-wide. It is only through strong commitment at all levels that polio eradication can be achieved.

He said that the Government of Pakistan has put health sector reform at the top of its agenda and has reinvigorate

its commitment to achieve the MDGs. Commitment to improving immunization as one of the key indicators for ensuring a reduction in childhood morbidity and mortality has never been so high and this support for procurement of vaccine would help address our vaccination needs.

Mr. Akira Kono, Charge d Affaires, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan said that Japan's commitment and strong partnership with polio infected countries as well as development partners will continue until the day of complete eradication of polio from the world. He paid tribute to the dedication of vaccinators, community based health workers, security workers, volunteers and all relevant staff who conduct immunization campaign in challenging situations.

The Government of Japan has supported the Polio Eradication Initiative in Pakistan since 1996. Total grant assistance made so far by the Government of Japan comes up to approximately US\$ 91.92 million, and has accounted for 26% of all oral polio vaccine procured so far.

Senior Representative JICA Mr Toshiya Sato expressed the resolve to help Pakistan address child health issues and eradicate polio from the country.

In her remarks, Ms Karen Allen, Deputy Representative UNICEF Pakistan, thanked the Government of Japan which is one of the leading supporters of UNICEF globally and is one of the largest donors in Pakistan's polio eradication efforts. UNICEF Pakistan provides support to the polio eradication programme through social mobilization and vaccine procurement. Through a third-party agreement nearly 1100 staff is engaged in 33 high risk districts across Pakistan to provide social mobilization support to the program and increase acceptance and demand for oral polio vaccine. Ms Allen said, we can and will ensure that the right of children to access vaccination becomes a reality and thus eradicate polio forever from Pakistan."

Mr. Per Engebak, Polio Team Lead UNICEF Pakistan, said nothing short of polio eradication from Pakistan would honor the services of those who made the ultimate sacrifice and laid their lives to vaccinate children against polio virus. The last mile in marathon is always the most difficult one and same is the case with polio eradication which is close to eradication and the last mile proving to be the toughest.

The latest support provided by Government of Japan will be used to ensure that sufficient quantities of vaccine are available for mop up campaigns, case response and Short Interval Additional Dose Strategy (SIADs), especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and FATA, and for communication materials for religious influencers, IEC material and cross boarder communication materials. Details http://www.unicef.org/pakistan/media_8121.htm

Norway provides NOK 240 million to efforts to eradicate polio Updated:

11.05.2013 // Polio can be eradicated within the space of five to six years. Norway is to increase its level of support for efforts to eradicate polio by NOK 190 million, to NOK 240 million (USD 40 million). "I am pleased to announce that the Norwegian Government is proceeding with plans to support the new polio eradication plan by providing an allocation of NOK 240 million 2014. We intend to continue our strong support for this important initiative for a further five years," Minister of International Development Heikki Eidsvoll Holmås said.

"Thanks to tremendous progress in 2012, we now have a unique opportunity to change history and eradicate polio," said Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "Norway is a leader in contributing to health and development around the world. Its commitment to polio eradication is another example of Norway's generosity to keep children healthy everywhere."

"From our own historical experience, we know the fear and suffering caused by the polio virus. We now have the opportunity to eradicate a disease that is continuing to harm and kill people," Mr Holmås said. This funding will be channelled through the World Health Organization (WHO).

“The areas in which the polio virus can still be found are poor, and they lack a functioning health-care system and health workers to give vaccinations. If we are to succeed in eradicating polio, we must focus particular attention on giving women improved access to health services,” Mr Holmås said.

Significant progress has been made in the efforts to eradicate polio. In 1985, the disease could be found in 125 countries. Today, it is only found in three: Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. The number of new cases is falling in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but rising in Nigeria. Violent attacks on health workers administering vaccinations have caused problems.

“I am concerned and appalled by the violent attacks on health workers administering the polio vaccine. This makes it all the more important to build a broad international alliance to promote the eradication of polio. If we are to win the battle against polio, we must also make sure that the disease is not spread once again to countries that are currently free of the virus,” Mr Holmås said.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has estimated that it will cost around NOK 30 billion to achieve the complete eradication of polio in five years' time. Given the current level of funding, we are around NOK 12 billion short of the funding needed to reach this goal. Norway will announce its increased contribution to the fight against polio at the vaccine summit in Abu Dhabi this week.

Norway has supported efforts to eradicate polio for many years, and last year it provided an [additional allocation](#) to these efforts. Details: http://www.norway.org.pk/News_and_events/Norway-provides-NOK-240-million-to-efforts-to-eradicate-polio/

A Norwegian-Pakistani “fillerye” provides jobs, education and a library

for thousands: Updated: 06.05.2013. This is the story of Yawar Bokhari, a Norwegian-Pakistani businessman who created a business which today provides jobs for over 500 people, schooling for 650 students and a prosperous local community for thousands. In April 2013 the Laila Library was opened, with local, Norwegian and other international guests. The Embassy was represented at the opening.

The Laila & Amar School and College for Girls (formerly known as Laila & Amar Model School, hence its acronym LAMS) is situated in Sultan Town, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

LAMS is a unique example of how aid for education and trade and development play an interwoven and indispensable role in providing opportunities for a local community to prosper and develop. LAMS is a foundation which has its base in Lillehammer, Norway. The purpose of the foundation is to support the continuous development of the school project in Sultan Town, and to garner support to its running. The school provides full-time education to 650 children, and employs over 30 teachers and other staff. The Norwegian Aid Agency (NORAD) contributed to the initial start-up by building the first class rooms of the LAMS-school back in the 1990s. The school is mainly however the result of the personal commitment of Yawar Bokhari who with strong co-operation with the local community in Sultan Town, began the production of high quality rugs. The rugs were exported for sale in the Norwegian and Swedish market. In Norwegian, these rugs are called "fillerye", a traditional rug made and used for generations.

Wanting to give something back to the local community where these rugs were being made, a decision was made to build a school and to provide free education to the children of the workers at the factory. Today this project has been extended into also providing a library to the local community: The Laila Library.

The philosophy behind LAMS is "Education, Trade & Development". LAMS was established on the belief that education is the best way of bringing people out of poverty in a sustainable manner. This is particularly true when it comes to girls whose possibilities otherwise are very limited.

To give children a chance to be educated to improve their own and their families' living conditions also means that

they get the opportunity to acquire knowledge and through that gain self-esteem, self-consciousness and hope for the future, and more secure economic conditions. Today, some of the former students at LAMS, are teachers, doctors, bankers – and even hold MBAs. Some of the girls are the first in their families to get an education.

LAMS and Yawar Bokhari's legacy is a great example which should serve to inspire other businessmen and – women in Norway, Pakistan and elsewhere. More Details http://www.norway.org.pk/News_and_events/A-Norwegian-Pakistan

Norway is Improving law and criminal justice in Punjab: Last updated: 11.06.2013 //

Norway has signed an agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), aiming at improving law and criminal justice in Punjab.

The newly appointed Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Pakistan, Mr. César Guedes and the Norwegian Ambassador Ms. Cecilie Landsverk signed a project agreement on 6 June with a grant of NOK 1,75 million.

The project will support improved institutional capacities for police training and crime scene investigation skills and processes, as well as improved training in prosecutor career development and police-prosecutor cooperation.

Details http://www.norway.org.pk/News_and_events/Improving-law-and-criminal-justice-in-Punjab/

[fillerye-provides-jobs-education-and-a-library-for-thousands-/](#)

North Atlantic Council visits KFOR: The NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the North Atlantic Council and ambassadors of KFOR contributing partners visited KFOR on Wednesday (3 July) to show continued support to the commander of KFOR General Halbauer and his troops, as well NATO's continued commitment to a better future for the region. "This is a time of great opportunity for Kosovo and for this region. I encourage all the leaders and the people from all communities to continue on the path of reconciliation and dialogue", the Secretary General said. "Because we all know as that this is the path to long-term security, and long term prosperity."

The Secretary General met Mr Hashim Thaci and other local government leaders, as well as representatives of international organisations in Kosovo. The Secretary General welcomed the landmark agreement on normalising relations between Belgrade and Pristina.

"This is a very important step. I congratulate all those who helped to make it happen – including the leaders here in Pristina and in Belgrade, and the European Union", he said. "This agreement offers the hope of a better life, and a better future, for people across this region. It is vital to make sure that the agreement is duly implemented and that hope is fulfilled. The future of this region lies in moving forward. And in moving closer to European integration. Today we see that local institutions are increasingly capable, and we welcome that", he added.

The Secretary General made clear that NATO and KFOR will continue to guarantee security in Kosovo and remain ready to deal with any attempts to undermine the progress that has been made.

"We will continue to work closely with the local institutions, the European Union, the United Nations and other international organisations, to help develop a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic and peaceful Kosovo," he said. "Because peace and security here will benefit everyone in the region, and will take us closer to our goal: a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace."

Swedish Development Cooperation with Pakistan: Pakistan was one of the earliest and largest recipients of Swedish Governmental Development Co-operation support. This co-operation, which was poverty-oriented, was cut down during the 1970s, after the creation of Bangladesh. However, from the 1980s until

the end of the 1990s, Pakistan was one of the biggest recipients of contract-financed technical assistance from Sweden.

In 1998 it was decided that the co-operation between Sweden and Pakistan should focus on equality of opportunity, respect for human rights, governance, the fight against corruption, as well as for a sustainable environment.

In 1999, this programme was revised and new guidelines recommended that Swedish support to Pakistan should aim at strengthening democratic institutions in the country and at increasing the respect for human rights. Support to the civil society through NGOs was included.

In 2007 Sweden's Development Co-operation underwent a major reform aiming at making it more effective by focusing bilateral Co-operation to fewer countries. This did not however affect areas such as humanitarian aid, good governance and support to civil society in the case of Pakistan.

Swedish Development Co-operation with Pakistan has the following profile:

- substantial humanitarian aid;
- substantial contribution to the European Union's development programme;
- substantial contributions to the UN and international financial institutions development programmes;
- support channelled through Swedish NGOs;
- Pakistani participation in Swedish international training programmes;
- minor projects (technical assistance) aiming at strengthening democratic institutions, as well as support to institutions in the economic sphere or projects that in other ways promote good governance. Projects in the field of environment can also be considered.

Sweden's humanitarian aid to Pakistan amounted last year to approximately SEK 365 million (USD 58 million) and its support to NGO:s approximately 4,5 million USD. Details: <http://www.swedenabroad.com/en-GB/Embassies/Islamabad/Development-Cooperation/Development-Cooperation-with-Pakistan/>

Swedish Clean Tech delegation to Pakistan: The 25-28 of February a Swedish Clean Tech delegation visited Pakistan. Expert seminars, factory visits and networking activities were conducted in Lahore, Sialkot and Karachi. Close to 300 people from both the public and private sector attended the events and the media coverage were ample in local TV, radio and printed press.

The aim was to promote Swedish solutions within renewable energy and to investigate the interest among Pakistani companies to invest in sustainable energy solutions. Several concrete business possibilities within the fields of waste to energy, solar energy, waste water treatment and bio energy were discussed. The seminars will be followed by a delegation of Swedish companies during 2013 for direct match-making between the Swedish resource base and Pakistani companies and public decision makers.

With current energy shortage in Pakistan there are good possibilities for Swedish companies to establish themselves in the country, says Lars-Hjalmar Wide, Ambassador to Islamabad. The Embassy now prepare for coming business delegation, exactly how this delegation will be organized will be decided once the evaluation of the seminars is finalized. Several Swedish companies have already shown interest in investing in Pakistan and the Embassy is looking forward to pave the way to Pakistan for Swedish Clean Tech Small and Medium Enterprises. Details <http://www.swedenabroad.com/en-GB/Embassies/Islamabad/Current-affairs/News/Swedish-Clean-Tech-delegation-to-Pakistan-sys/>

Statement of **Dr. Stefanie Babst**, *Head, NATO Strategic Analysis Capability*, to promote harmony and

interfaith respect.

Do I have the right picture about relations between the different faith groups in the Middle East? I just finished a discussion with a highly diverse group of people, among them a young Israeli social entrepreneur, a Palestinian agent for change who builds a new city close to Ramallah, a Saudi NGO leader who creates jobs for women in his country and a Shiite leader who teaches his community a code of conduct of how to show respect towards other faith groups. I was impressed by how many grassroots activities go into cross-sectarian dialogue and education.

UK Aid to Pakistan: Pakistan National Cash Transfers Programme'

To reduce poverty and improve living standards and educational attainment in the poorest families by providing regular payments to the female head of household. 315,000 additional beneficiary families will benefit by 2020. This programme will contribute to 1.05 million primary school children being supported in school and directly contribute MDG 1: Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; and MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education.

<u>Project budget:</u>	<u>Project start/end date:</u>	<u>Sector group</u>
£284,666,345	28/11/2011 - 31/03/2020	Other social infrastructure and services
<u>Project Reference:</u>	<u>Budget spent to Date:</u>	<u>Special conditions attached to funding?</u> Yes
203029	£38,472,442	
<u>Special conditions attached to funding?</u> Yes		

Principal sector Social/welfare services 60% Details: <http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/project.aspx?Project=203029>

UNICEF receives €3 Million Funds from the European Commission to Combat

Malnutrition in Pakistan: Islamabad/Brussels, 24 June 2013 - The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) has provided €3 million (Euros) to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to work with partners to combat malnutrition among women and children affected by emergencies in Pakistan.

This support comes at a critical time, as nutrition is a key concern in Pakistan especially in areas which have been hit by successive emergencies. These funds will help UNICEF and its partners in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces to increase the coverage of the 'Community based Management of Acute Malnutrition' which aims to provide essential life-saving interventions covering a total population of 1.9 million and providing nutrition services to 266,000 people.

"Addressing acute malnutrition of women and children affected by disasters in Pakistan is an urgent priority for us", said David Sevcik, ECHO's Head of Office in Islamabad. "We also believe ECHO's support provides an important platform from which developmental partners can further address the structural causes of malnutrition".

In close coordination with nutrition partners, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, the programme ensures harmonization in implementation and elimination of gaps and overlaps. It includes component to build service providers capacities, promotion of infant and young child feeding practices, micro-nutrient supplementation and deworming treatments for children and pregnant and lactating women.

"We are grateful to ECHO for this timely contribution that will help UNICEF and partners to continue the much needed nutritional support to families affected by emergencies, some of which are displaced from their homes and still living in camps or with host communities," said Dan Rohrmann, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan.

The programme also includes identification and referral of severely malnourished children for treatment wherein they receive ready to use food and essential medical support. Children with complications are referred to medical care at the district hospital. http://www.unicef.org/pakistan/media_8266.htm

Pakistan Lauded for role in Peacekeeping, January 31, 2013, Islamabad: Pakistan's contribution

providing peacekeeping services in war affected countries is a remarkable and inspiring contribution to the maintaining of peace in the world. This was stated today by Ms. Ellen Margrethe Loej, Former Special Representative of the Secretary General & UN Head of Mission in Liberia during her meeting with Chief of Army Staff, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, at the General Headquarters.

Ms Loej especially applauded Pakistan's contribution to the peacekeeping mission in Liberia. "During my tenure in Liberia, I personally met the brave Pakistani troops who served all over the country. It was always an encouragement to see their dedication towards maintaining the peace and paving the way for a better future for all Liberians.

Ms. Loej is currently visiting Pakistan as part of her new role as Chair of the International Board & Members Assembly of Plan International, including sharing her experiences on peace- and state building at different national institutions, including the National Defence University and Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). Ms. Loej was accompanied by the Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Ole E. Moesby.

Background of Bridge Communications and Research – BCR: Bridge Communications & Research – BCR <http://bridgecommunicationsandresearch.com/index.html> started in 2001 from Memphis, TN, The United States. BCR is working to promote our core values Diversity, Policy, Awareness & Human Rights using social media, coverage, lectures, articles, book referrals, talk shows, interviews and coverage of the events promoting such principles. BCR interviewed leading figures in Canada to have them convey their message to the politicians in Pakistan to deliver for what they are in the office.

In 2011, BCR initiated Pakistan Awareness Initiative – PAI from Canada for both people and incumbents in Pakistan. We recommend books, lectures, links, published research based articles and general discussion for social and community awareness. BCR is member of The American Political Science Association – APSA, Canadian Association of Journalists – CAJ, European Journalism Centre – EJC, The Canadian Journalists for Free Expression – CJFE, Nomination for the Commercial Appeal's 2005 Jefferson Award, U.S.A , participated in Proliteracy America (formerly known as Laubach Literacy Action) US Program Division, U.S.A and actively participated in several issues related to diversity and human rights and has intervened in 11 cases of Human rights, Policy and racial discriminations worldwide. In Pakistan, we are working with Wejournalists.

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