

### THE PAAS FOUNDATION HOSPITAL OPENS ITS DOORS IN DEH LOON KHAN



*January 8, 2023 - District Manager Badin (PPHI Sindh), Zakir Shah, inaugurates the PAAS Foundation hospital in Deh Loon Khan, Badin*

In January 2023, the PAAS Foundation hospital in Deh Loon Khan, Badin opened its doors to provide primary medical care to over 40 hamlets in rural Sindh. The facility is being run as a partnership between PAAS Foundation and PPHI Sindh, a not-for-profit organization that is currently providing healthcare services in 22 districts of Sindh.

The outpatient clinics at the PAAS hospital are open to patients four days a week. Consultation, care and referrals are provided by medical practitioners from PPHI Sindh, including a female physician. While the entire area will benefit from a medical facility that is easily accessible, the hospital is likely to make a substantial difference in the lives of women patients, a large number of whom visit the hospital for health and reproductive issues. It is harder for women of the community to travel for medical treatment; culturally, many women are also more comfortable sharing their problems with female physicians.

On non-clinic days, the PAAS dispensary continues to provide free medication to patients. According to the pharmacy dispenser, Moosa Palli, the number of patients

coming for medication can vary from 50 to around a 100 patients on a daily basis. Palli confirms that a large number of patients attending clinics are female.



The PAAS Hospital is a fully solar powered facility with two outpatient clinics with adjoining examination rooms, outdoor and indoor waiting areas for patients, bathrooms for medical personnel and for patients, and two staff rooms. As the hospital expands its services, it will offer facilities for normal deliveries, ultrasound and x-rays.

*Left): The PPHI healthcare team sees patients at the PAAS hospital and prescribes medication provided by UNICEF for pneumonia and diarrhea in children under five.*



*November 2022: The last tile - a construction worker adds finishing touches to the PAAS hospital verandah.*

## PAAS FOUNDATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS



In January 2023, PAAS Foundation launched an internship program for high school and college students who have an interest in public health, education and welfare work in remote areas of Pakistan.

PAAS Foundation's first intern, Mohammad Raja, is an A Levels student with an interest in movie making. PAAS organized Mohammad's visit to Deh Loon Khan, Badin, where he observed the inauguration of the PAAS hospital and is now preparing a short video on the event. Opportunities for future interns include hands-on teaching experience at the PAAS micro-school and assisting with patient care at the PAAS hospital.

*PAAS Foundation's first intern, Mohammad Raja (left) stands at the steps of the PAAS hospital in Deh Loon Khan, Badin.*

## PAAS FOUNDATION WORKSHOPS AT THE HOUSE OF LIGHT SCHOOL, PIND BEGWAL, ISLAMABAD



*The House of Light school provides free education to underprivileged children in Pind Begwal, Islamabad.*

In 2023, PAAS Foundation will collaborate with the House of Light School (HOL) through training sessions on reading development and workshops on ethics education for HOL teachers and students. HOL is a free school for children from low-income backgrounds in the rural area of Pind Begwal, Islamabad Capital Territory. The school takes in students from the age of 3 years onward, and provides education up to grade 10 (matriculation). HOL teachers are also recruited from the same area.

In November 2022, PAAS Foundation conducted an introductory session on ethics education for HOL faculty. Following this introductory foray into ethics, PAAS will conduct sessions in 2023 that focus both on the development of character and moral reasoning in children and adolescents. In addition to ethics sessions, the collaboration will also include monthly training sessions on reading development for HOL teachers of nursery to grade II. Starting in April 2023, training on reading skills will include strategies for teaching phonics and sight words, and prerequisites for reading ability, such as rhyme and phonemic awareness. The program will include an assessment for reading fluency and accuracy before and after implementing reading strategies in classrooms. In March 2023, PAAS and HOL will also initiate an English reading club for teachers to provide opportunities for HOL faculty to read and converse in English.

## **UPDATES FROM THE PAAS MICRO-SCHOOL, DEH LOON KHAN, BADIN**

### **THE PAAS SCHOOL GETS A FACELIFT**



*December 2022: The PAAS micro-school gets a fresh coat of paint during the winter vacations.*

## SAIMA PALLI: DEH LOON KHAN'S FIRST WOMAN TEACHER



Saima Palli, teacher at the PAAS micro-school, writes letters on the board for students to revise. At her request, Saima's photograph was taken without showing her face.

Saima Palli is the first woman from her community to work outside the home. She was fortunate enough to go to school and developed an interest in education. Unusually for the area, she continued to study up to matriculation and intends to study further if she gets the opportunity. As one of the few individuals in the community with education up to grade 10, she was offered a teaching position at the PAAS Foundation micro-school in Deh Loon Khan.

Saima relates that she was able to take up the job because of her family's support. While Saima is a pioneer, she also adheres to local traditions and culture. Unlike her male colleagues at the PAAS micro-school, she has never traveled to Karachi for training on Teach the World Foundation's (TTWF) digital programs that are in use at the school. However, she works around physical constraints on travel by joining training sessions online in the school's solar powered classroom. When asked about her motivation for joining the school, Saima said that she wanted to stay connected to education and felt really happy when she saw her students learning. For her community, Saima is a new kind of role model, a young woman who respects tradition but also shows that education can open doors to independence and earning power - for women as well as for men.

## AFTER THE FLOODS: BACK TO SCHOOL IN JANUARY 2023



*Students return to the classroom after the winter vacation.*

Most of Sindh province in Pakistan is still dealing with the aftermath of the devastating floods of 2022, with entire villages rendered homeless. Although Deh Loon Khan fared better than some other areas, attendance at the PAAS micro-school went down in the last quarter of 2022 with many families migrating from the area and children finding it difficult to navigate to school through flooded fields. The attendance has slowly improved with around 80 of the original 100 children back in school for the new term.

## PAAS FOUNDATION

HELP, HEAL AND UPLIFT

Address: 801-647-0274  
13838 La Vigne Ct Ne  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110, USA

<https://www.paasfoundation.org/>

For donations and enquiries: [paasfoundation1@gmail.com](mailto:paasfoundation1@gmail.com)

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