



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

November 2011



Hello everyone

I hope that those of you who attended the Federation Conference in Brighton found it stimulating and worthwhile. I certainly did and enjoyed meeting so many Soroptimists from around our Federation.

I am going to write to you all shortly with details about our new Federation Project "The 3E Project: Healthcare". I am very excited about the possibilities with the partnership we have forged with Maternal and Childhealth Advocacy International (MCAI) and I hope you will become as enthused as myself.

One of the highlights of the Conference for me was the announcement that UNICEF will build two schools for us in Pakistan if we raise £24,000 with our appeal. As of today (4/11/11) we are only £580 short of the total. So if you have any Club funds looking for a good home please consider this appeal.



International President Alice's December 10th appeal this year is building on a project started by SI South West Pacific and is linked to working with new mothers in Papua New Guinea. Please will you visit the

SI website at www.soroptimistinternational.org/our-projects to gain insight and resources to help with this project. **Sue Biggs SIGBI Programme Director**

EARLY WARNING! INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8TH MARCH 2012 - BRIDGE EVENT

Soroptimists Join Women for Women International on the Bridge. Start planning now!

INTRODUCING THE NEW PROGRAMME TEAM



Sue Biggs—SIGBI Federation Programme Director



Janet Hodgson - APD Learning Opportunities

"Increase access to formal and non-formal learning opportunities"



Talat Pasha - APD Economic Empowerment

"Improve access to economic empowerment and sustainable opportunities for the employment of women"



Jackie Paling - APD Violence and Conflict Resolution

"Eliminate violence against women and girls and ensure women's participation in conflict resolution"



Barbara Dixon— APD Food Security and Health Care

"Ensure women and girls have food security and access to the highest attainable standard of health care"



Ruth Dodd - APD Environmental Sustainability

"Address the specific needs of women and girls by improving environmental sustainability, and mitigating effects of climate change and disasters"



80% of maternal deaths are due to emergency complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Our Federation SIGBI has teamed up with the charity Maternal and Childhealth Advocacy International - MCAI (and their partner ALSG) for a three year fundraising challenge which will save the lives of countless critically ill women, babies and children in the Gambia.

The joint venture, The 3E Project: Healthcare, focuses on providing education, empowerment and enablement to The Gambia where current statistics report that one pregnant woman or girl out of every 49 will die and for every death, another 30 women and girls are left disabled or seriously injured. Both organisations attribute this to the lack of trained health workers and state that, in The Gambia, there are only five trained midwives for every 1,000 births. Therefore, women and girls face preventable life-threatening situations in all stages of pregnancy, and many die due to lack of appropriate and timely treatment.

The 3E Project: Healthcare wants to change these harrowing facts by creating an effective path of emergency care from the home to the hospital. ● Training health staff, community workers, and traditional birth attendants in emergency skills (and then training some of them to become trainers so they can continue to teach their colleagues);

● Refurbishing health care facilities; Supplying necessary medical devices, drugs, and equipment and ;

● Setting up emergency transport facilities (ambulances and boats).

Keep an eye on the website www.sigbi.org for more information and resources to inform you about this exciting new partnership project. **The Programme Team**



MCAI Maternal & Childhealth Advocacy International

EDUCATE TO LEAD—Educate Empower Enable Learning Opportunities



SI KARACHI CENTRAL worked with a girl's school to encourage reading and speaking with confidence.

- Furnished and equipped a library within the school.
- Girls improved their reading skills.
- Organised a public speaking competition.
- Girls **enabled** to speak with confidence.

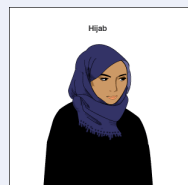
Economic Empowerment

SI PUNE **empowered** women with micro credit projects.



- **Enabled** women to work their way out of poverty
- Teaching women how to develop their businesses
- Learning business skills
- Learning money management

Violence and Conflict Resolution



SI ELMBRIDGE invited Muslim women to explain the veil and dressing in the context of religious and cultural influences.

- Other organisations invited including Guides.
- Increased understanding of dress in Muslim communities.

- Spread understanding of difference between religious and cultural dress codes.
- **Educated** others and improved cross cultural understanding.

Food Security and Health Care



SI ASABA **educated** mothers on dangers of unsafe abortions for teenage girls.

- Spoke to meeting of mothers on why abortions should be discouraged.
- Highlighted risks and implications of unsafe abortion.

- Women **empowered** to spread the information to others.
- Information sent to schools, churches and mosques.

Environment Sustainability

SI WOLVERHAMPTON **enabled** young women to complete their education at an agricultural school.

- Provided for tuition and text books.
- Young women gained knowledge and skills
- Women **empowered** to plan for a sustainable future
- Beneficial impact on the community



GREEN SCARF CAMPAIGN

October 7th 2011 was the 10th anniversary of western intervention in Afghanistan. This is a key date where people will be taking stock – looking at the impact of intervention over the last 10 years, when “women’s rights” was central to the rhetoric used at the time of invasion. We need to use this date to talk about the rights of women in Afghanistan, past, present and future. In early December the international community will meet at Bonn for a Foreign Minister’s conference where governments will make statements about their expected levels of both aid and military involvement for the next 10 years. This is a key time to make sure that women’s rights are not neglected in the exit strategy. Afghanistan has its own vibrant women’s movement and women are campaigning and mobilising to make sure that the international community doesn’t forget the promises that it made to Afghan women. The women’s movement in Afghanistan has long used green scarves in their campaigning to symbolise their movement – so we in solidarity with the Afghan Women’s Network are calling on people to wear green scarves in solidarity with the women of Afghanistan as part of a photo petition that will be delivered to Foreign Ministers before they attend the Bonn conference. These images will also be made into a solidarity photo wall which will be taken to the Bonn Conference and erected outside the event as a visual reminder of the rhetoric of intervention and a global display of solidarity with Afghan women.

<http://www.ch16.org>

Jackie Paling, APD for Violence and Conflict Resolution



SOROPTIMISTS FOR PAKISTAN

At our conference last year we launched the SIGBI/UNICEF partnership project “Soptimists for Pakistan” throughout the year we have been raising money to help Pakistan’s recovery after the devastating floods of 2010. Huge thanks to Liz Jamieson, UKPAC representative at UNICEF for all her work, a very special thank you to the Federation of SI SWP for their generous donation, and a huge thank you to all our members

I am really pleased to tell you that in 12 months we have raised £22,790 Last week we were told some really exciting News - £24,000 would allow UNICEF to fund the building of 2 schools in Pakistan. Please help us reach this amount as soon as possible and so make a difference to the lives of children in Pakistan.

Sue Challoner & Talat Pasha



SIGBI FEDERATION SUCCESSES RECORDED IN OCTOBER:

Reports submitted: 7 Funds raised: \$2,492 Women and Girls helped: 1,350:

