



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

March 2011



GREETINGS FROM CSW IN NEW YORK!

We were all privileged to be at the ceremony for the launch of UN Women which we have worked hard to achieve. We heard both Ban Ki Moon and Michelle Bachelet state their commitment to this new UN entity which hopefully will drive forward the importance of women's issues and implement gender mainstreaming in our world. A great event to be part of and to celebrate. The links to this will be on the SIGBI website and a copy of Michelle Bachelet's speech will be available via your FPAC reps. We have also been allowed to make a prepared statement next week in the assembly. So Soroptimists are **making** their mark at the UN. Do go onto the SI website for blogs and updates about this very important meeting and look in Soroptimist News. See what an influence we are making on your behalf, using your work and stories.



Keep up your good work to enable our work at the international level.
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
MARCH 8TH:
THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Do make sure your club is doing something to mark this special day,



JOIN WOMEN ON THE BRIDGE whether it is joining your sisters on a bridge, raising your profile, taking action, lobbying etc. BUT please let us know what you have done and send any pictures of your event as soon as you can to Jackie Paling or direct to Soroptimist News so that they can be included in the next issue-so copy date deadline: **MARCH 12th**

Hilary Ratcliffe SIGBI Programme Director

SIGBI/UNICEF PARTNERSHIP PROJECT "SOROPTIMISTS FOR PAKISTAN"



Funds Raised so Far £20,298

This is an excellent result so far. Thank you to all our clubs for your support - **SO** Much still to do.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS! SI PUNE METRO EAST

On the occasion of their first charter anniversary on 31st Jan 2011 **SI Pune Metro East** organized a workshop at ISHWARI, Phulgaon, a small village near Pune, where 22 girls were imparted with practical life skills, the fourth one under the women empowerment project, 'Girls Moving Forward'.



The workshop was conducted by members of five SI clubs from India and UK.

The sessions were on:

- Budgeting: **SI Pune Metro East**
- Anger management: **SI Pune Metro East**
- Food and nutrition: **SI Pune Metro East**
- First Aid and Resuscitation: **SI York Ebor, England**
- Card Making (Rosemarie Teabag Craft): **SI Perth, Scotland**
- Motivational presentation on 'Education and Leadership':

- SI: Bangalore, India**
- 'Collage Making': **SI Chennai, India**

The workshop was the perfect example of 'Bonding with the Best' to 'Achieve the Most'.

Neerja Bajaj SI Pune Metro East

In Pakistan, millions remain affected by the massive flooding that began in July 2010 and spread through most of the country. Many are returning to homes damaged by floodwater and lost livelihoods. Meanwhile, the arrival of winter has made the need for shelter increasingly acute. UNICEF is working to meet the needs of the flood-affected populations, including providing therapeutic feeding to treat malnutrition, distributing winter clothes and blankets, delivering immunisation programmes and running temporary learning centres for children to continue their education. For more information read new newsletter at

<http://soroptimist-gbi.org/>



Girls attend class in a village in Nowshera District Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province. The school was damaged by the floods, but has been rehabilitated with UNICEF support. Send Donations to Soroptimists for

UNICEF/NYHQ2010-2742/Marta Ramoneda

Pakistan Appeal at <http://www.unicef.org.uk/landing-pages/>

pakistan_soroptimists/

Sue Challoner APD Economic And Social Development and Talat Pasha APD International Goodwill and Understanding



POSSIBLE RE-VICTIMISATION OF AFGHAN WOMEN

Afghanistan is said to have the worst record in the world for domestic violence. There are a limited number of shelters for women victims of domestic and other violence and these have been set up and run by local Afghan women's NGOs. Recently, new rules were made by the Afghan government, who introduced a bill to allow them to take over control of all women's shelters in Afghanistan through the Ministry of Women's Affairs..

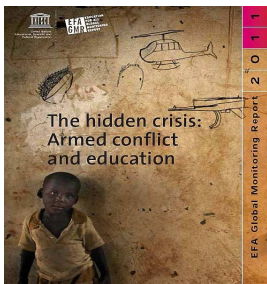
If this bill became law, woman and girls seeking refuge would be required to plead their case before a Government panel which would include conservative members of the Supreme Court and Ministry of Justice This panel would decide if a woman should be put in a shelter, sent to jail or returned home (and hence to her abusers). Once a woman was in a shelter she would be forbidden to leave and it would become her prison. President Karzai has since announced that the Afghan government would not after all take over all of the women's shelters apart from a couple which he accused of corruption and wastage. Although some sort of regulation is welcomed to ensure that women's safety is paramount, it is essential to keep up the pressure to ensure the President keeps his word.

I advise you to still sign this following petition which has been set up by the Women for Afghan Women organisation: www.thepetitionsite.com/1/savetheshelters/ Jackie Paling APD Human Rights/Status of Women

GLOBAL MONITORING REPORT 2011

Conflict, a major barrier to education, claims report

Of the total number of primary school age children in the world who are not enrolled in school, over 40% live in countries affected by conflict, according to UNESCO's 2011 Global Monitoring Report, to be launched on 1 March in New York (United States).



The report: **THE HIDDEN CRISIS: ARMED CONFLICT AND EDUCATION**, cautions that the world is not on track to achieve by 2015 the six internationally-agreed Education for All goals.

Despite much progress, most of the goals will be missed by a wide margin – especially in conflict-affected countries.

Thirty-five countries were affected by armed conflict from 1999 to 2008. Children and schools are on the front line of these conflicts, with classrooms, teachers and pupils seen as legitimate targets.

Visit the UNESCO website to read the report.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/>

Helen Owen APD Education

SI ONITSHA NIGER in partnership with medical groups carried out a health screening exercise on men, women and children of Achina at the Amaiyi General Hospital.



Talks were given on a wide range of health issues. Many health professionals

were involved and the turnout was overwhelming. The major challenge was to raise money to purchase the drugs for common illnesses many of which are out of the reach of the ordinary Nigerian. The greater challenge now is for funds to follow up the more serious cases that were identified. The event had good media coverage and was an opportunity to showcase Soroptimism to professionals who were there. They were enthused that we could be our 'brothers' keeper' in these hard times.

Chinwe Ezenwa Mbah SI Nigeria

For a full account of this project please see February edition of Soroptimist News

WORLD HEALTH DAY 7TH APRIL 2011

Antimicrobial resistance and its global spread

Antimicrobial resistance: no action today, no cure tomorrow. We live in an era of medical breakthroughs with new wonder drugs available to treat conditions that a few decades ago, or even a few years ago in the case of HIV/AIDS, would have proved fatal. For World Health Day 2011, WHO will launch a worldwide campaign to safeguard these medicines for future generations. Antimicrobial resistance and its global spread threaten the continued effectiveness of many medicines used today to treat the sick, while at the same time it risks jeopardizing important advances being made against major infectious killers.



Rita Allen APD Health



WORLD WATER DAY

2011 CHALLENGE

Soroptimist members are challenged to collect £15 in a jar by the 22nd March.

This amount will provide someone with a lasting supply of safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. WaterAid can send you branded stickers for your jars. Please just let Clare know how many you would like by emailing her at: claremctaggart@wateraid.org or calling on 020 7793 4550



Ruth Dodd APD Environment



SIGBI FEDERATION SUCCESSES RECORDED IN FEBRUARY:

Funds raised: **\$36,010** Women helped: **3,468** Girls helped: **3,108**