

AKWS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



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A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER

From the very beginning, Al Karim Welfare Society was born out of a deep sense of responsibility and love for our community. I envisioned a platform where individuals, especially the youth, could thrive through education, empowerment, and collaboration. Every initiative we undertook—from free tuition for children to leadership programs and community-building activities—was a step towards a brighter future for Chitral.

I firmly believed that true progress comes from within, through shared efforts and unwavering commitment. Today, seeing AKWS touch countless lives and address pressing challenges reaffirms the values we started with. This journey is a testament to the power of community and the boundless potential of our people.

As we move forward, may we continue to serve with the same passion, integrity, and dedication that brought us here. Together, we can create a lasting legacy of hope and progress for generations to come.

Warm Regards
(LATE) IHSAN UL HAQ JAN
Founder, Al Karim Welfare Society

BACKGROUND OF AL-KARIM WELFARE SOCIETY (AKWS)

Al-Karim Welfare Society (AKWS) is a civil society organization focusing on youth development and engagement, aiming to empower young boys and girls of Chitral to reach their full potential, live a healthy and meaningful life, and contribute to the sustainable development of the societies they live in.

The idea of AKWS was conceived by Ehsan Ul Haq Jan in 1988 when he was 18 years old. As a passionate and inspiring young social activist in his village Booni, Ehsan realized the importance of engaging the youth of the area in healthy activities to enable them to be responsible citizens of society. Along with his close friends, he founded AKWS as a platform for young people of the area to get together; discuss their critical social issues; arrange recreational events; have positive interaction with each other; and build their leadership skills so that they could effectively contribute to the socio-economic development of the area. The organization was formally registered with the government of Pakistan in 1993.

The establishment of the Al-Karim Welfare Society was a pioneering initiative of the youth of the area and was a matter of courage in a conservative society such as Chitral where the youth of the area were ignored, and any kind of association or organization of the youth was socially unacceptable. A famous proverb in the Khowar language, ‘a youth knows how to run but is yet to know how to fall’ commonly used by the elders of the area back then, signifies how the older generation belittled the young people. The establishment of AKWS served to be a turning point in how the elders of the area looked at the young people and provided a new model of social development to

the local communities where the voices of the young generation matter and the young people work together with the elders to solve problems of the local communities.

In the early years since its inception, AKWS focused on organizing recreational (sports and cultural) events; providing free tuition and mentoring services to the school-going children during winter and summer vacations, and providing voluntary services to various development organizations and government departments in organizing different public events in the area and developing leadership skills of young people by celebrating various national and international days and organizing discussion sessions on various social issues and important socio-economic themes. Over time, AKWS increased its membership base, expanded its scope of work, improved its strategies and approaches, and developed partnerships with development organizations and the government. An important milestone was achieved in 2003 when AKWS, a different mindset to the young started offering mentorship to the young as well, bringing a marginalized section of the society to the forefront and ensuring their active participation in the development of the local communities.

Under the guidance of Ehsan ul Haq Jan and the leadership of committed young leaders of the area, AKWS has continued to evolve as a pioneering youth development organization in the area and has been effectively responding to the emerging issues of the society and to the critical needs of the younger generation of the area.

VISION

AKWS envisions that young people from Chitral, including boys and girls, are empowered and effectively contribute to the sustainable development of their communities.



MISSION

The mission of AKWS is to inspire the youth of Chitral, equip them with critical thinking, leadership and technical skills and provide them with opportunities to transform their lives and the societies where they live.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION'S:

1	Year of Establishment	1988
2	Legal Status	Registered with Social Welfare Department, Government of KPK, Pakistan
3	Year of Registration	1993
4	Registration Number	713
5	Geographical Scope	Districts Upper Chitral and Lower Chitral, KPK Province, Pakistan
7	Priority Sectors	Youth development and engagement with a focus on digital skills, life skills, mental, social, and physical health, education, entrepreneurship, and environment
8	Target Groups	Children and Youth under the age of 35years
9	Total Registered Members	210 (Male: 130, Female:80
12	Geographical jurisdiction	Subdivision Mastuj
13	Postal Address	Village & P.O Booni, Tehsil Mastuj, Distt Chitral, Ph # 0943-470352,
15	Contact Person	• Mr. Salahuddin, Project Manager, 03349102581, salahuddinims@gmail.com • Mr. Inam Ul Haq, Director Partnership (+923453172649) inamulhak@outlook.com
16	Key Position Holders	• Mrs. Laila Jan, Chief Patron • Mr. Manzoor Ahmad (President) • Mrs. Nusrat Jahan (Senior Vice President) • Mr. Syed Abdul Karim (Vice President) • Mr. Khursheed Alam Taj (General Secretary) • Mr. Sajjad Ali (Emergency Coordinator) • Mr. Sohail Ahmad (Information Secretary)

KEY INITIATIVES AND MILESTONES

2024-2025

EQUIPPING YOUTH FOR A STRONGER, SUSTAINABLE CHITRAL | FUNDING: USIP

The ongoing USIP-funded Youth Empowerment Project **(Empowering Resilient and Non-Violent Extremism for Sustainable Development of Chitral)** has achieved significant milestones in fostering skill development and community engagement:

Digital Skill Trainings: Successfully conducted 10 cohorts, equipping 300 beneficiaries with essential digital skills.

Soft Skills Sessions: Organized 50 sessions, providing over 800 participants with training in communication, teamwork, decision-making, and more.

Community Building Activities: Hosted 4 impactful activities, engaging over 1,000 beneficiaries and promoting harmony, collaboration, and social cohesion.

Co-Working Space and Resource Center: Established the area's first-ever co-working space, serving more than 1,500 beneficiaries by providing access to modern resources and a conducive work environment.

Digital and Conventional Library: Launched the first digital and conventional library, creating a vital resource hub for the youth to enhance learning and access knowledge. This initiative has empowered hundreds of young individuals, contributing significantly to the region's social and economic development.

VISIT OF THE FOREIGN DELEGATES:

Al Karim Welfare Society (AKWS) had the privilege of hosting esteemed foreign delegates, including representatives from the Canadian High Commission and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). These visits provided an opportunity to showcase AKWS's impactful initiatives and discuss potential collaborations for sustainable community development in Chitral. The delegates commended AKWS's efforts in youth empowerment, digital literacy, and community building, further strengthening its credibility as a leading organization driving meaningful change in the region.

INAUGURATION OF THE SOLARIZATION PROJECT | FUNDING: AKRSP & AKWS

The solarization project was inaugurated completed by AKRSP and Al Karim Welfare Society (AKWS) through co-finance model to ensure uninterrupted operation of the co-working and safe space, promoting sustainable energy use and continuous community services.

INAUGURATION OF DIGITAL LIBRARY FUNDING: USIP

The Digital and Conventional Library was formally opened in a ceremony attended by Roziman Shah, a renowned Chitrali-American businessman, and many community members. This library serves as a key educational resource, promoting learning, digital literacy, and knowledge-sharing for the youth of Chitral. Both events reflect AKWS's ongoing commitment to community development and empowerment.

KEY INITIATIVES AND MILESTONES

2024-2025

DISTRIBUTION OF WHEELCHAIRS TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSON'S FUNDING: NIAZ SUPPORT

With the generous support of Niaz Support, Al Karim Welfare Society (AKWS) carried out a large-scale distribution of customised wheelchairs across Upper & lower Chitral, reaching from Asherait to Yarkhoon Lasht and covering almost all valleys except Laspur in upper chitral. This life-changing initiative ensured dignified mobility for 530 persons with disabilities, bringing comfort, independence, and renewed hope to some of the most remote and hard-to-reach communities.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OF CHILDREN OF DIFFERENTLY ABLES PERSON'S FUNDING: NIAZ SUPPORT

The Scholarship and Health Support Program for Children of Special Parents is a continuing initiative implemented in Upper and Lower Chitral with the generous support of Niaz Support. The program aims to ensure uninterrupted education and essential health care for children belonging to families facing social, physical, or economic vulnerabilities.

To date, 15 students are actively benefiting from this program, representing reputable institutions including AKES, FCPS, Alkhidmat, and Oxford Public School and College. The support covers educational assistance alongside basic health-related needs, enabling students to pursue their academic journey with dignity and stability.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS DRAMAS & THEATRE ENGAGEMENT: FUNDING: AKRSP

During the reporting period, Al Karim Welfare Society (AKWS), with the support of AKRSP, produced and facilitated a series of community awareness dramas in collaboration with different theatre groups from Upper Chitral. These performances addressed key social, financial, digital, and economic challenges relevant to the region, using theatre as an effective tool for public awareness, dialogue, and behavioral change.

The dramas played a vital role in simplifying complex development themes, promoting community reflection, and strengthening social cohesion, particularly among youth and marginalized groups. This initiative reinforced theatre as a culturally rooted and impactful medium for fostering inclusive understanding, resilience, and collective responsibility within Chitral's diverse communities.

NEXT FIVE-YEARS ACTION PLAN:



- Upgrading the Resource Centre to engage/Facilitate more students
- Continuing Digital, job and soft skills Programs
- Youth-Centered Research
- Scholarship for Deserving Youth.
- Promoting Voluntarism Among Youth.
- Youth Internship Opportunities

IMAGE GALLERY



IMAGE GALLERY



IMAGE GALLERY

