

MASS MARRIAGE PROGRAM

Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan Province, Pakistan | May 2014

PROJECT REPORT

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OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES



MASS MARRIAGE PROGRAM | INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW & EXPENSE SUMMARY

Marriage is highly recommended in Islam and God says in the Holy Qur'an (24:32), "*Marry the spouseless among you...if they are poor, God will enrich them of His bounty.*"

In many parts of the developing world, men and women never marry — not because they don't want to, but because they simply cannot afford to. In November 2013, a group of villagers from the Gilgit-Baltistan Province of Pakistan visited The World Federation's partnering agency to request assistance in arranging and sponsoring mass marriages for their sons, daughters, brothers and sisters who otherwise could not afford the cost of a wedding.

The World Federation has been sponsoring Mass Marriage Programs for many years now and thanks to the continued support of the **Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Foundation** who contributed \$20,000 USD towards this initiative, we were able to once again sponsor the marriage of 30 couples on 26 May 2014 in Skardu, Pakistan.

This report highlights the activities of the Mass Marriage Program held on 26 May 2014 and how funds raised for this project were spent.

The World Federation takes this opportunity to thank the **Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Foundation** for sponsoring the Mass Marriage Program held in Skardu. We congratulate each of the 30 couples and wish them a long, happy and prosperous life together filled with love and Imaan.

MASS MARRIAGE PROGRAM - EXPENSE SUMMARY

28 MAY 2014

ITEM	DETAILS	UNITS	PRICE PER UNIT	TOTAL (CAD/USD)
Wedding Gift Pack	Wedding clothes, community dinner and home starter kit gifted to each couple	30	£393.56 GBP \$627 USD/CAD	£11,806.80 GBP \$18,810 USD/CAD
Administration Expenses	Administrative Expenses to deliver the full project			£878.76 GBP \$1,400 USD/CAD
TOTAL COST				(GBP) £12,685.56 (USD/CAD) \$20,210.00
CONTRIBUTION FROM MOHSIN & FAUZIA JAFFER FOUNDATION				(USD) \$20,000.00

MASS MARRIAGE PROGRAM | ACTIVITIES

JOURNEY TO SKARDU

Skardu is a historical city located between the Koh-Karakorum and Himalayan mountains of northern Pakistan; it is also the capital of Gilgit-Baltistan Province. Five representatives of The World Federation's partnering agency in Pakistan travelled from Islamabad to Skardu to manage the Mass Marriage Program. They travelled 631 kilometres by car over four days on the Shahrah-Resham Highway which links China and Pakistan. Each day they would drive about 7.5 hours along this windy and sometimes dangerous route.

WEDDING CEREMONY

On the morning of 26 May 2014, the wedding celebrations started at 10:00am where the men gathered at Imambargah Hussainia Baab Al Hawaai and the women gathered next door at Jamia Al-Zahra. The ceremony was presided over by Sheikh Hassan Jafary of Skardu, Baltistan and Khawahar Masooma Sahiba.

Among the 1,500 guests who attended this mass celebration, were government officials including ministers and key political personalities from Skardu and across Baltistan, and religious leaders.

The ceremony started with the recitation of The Holy Qur'an, Naats and Qasidas followed by a sermon and the Nikah (wedding) ceremony.

The guests then prayed salaat in congregation and sat together for the wedding lunch.

WEDDING GIFT PACKS

After the wedding ceremony, each of the 30 couples received a 'Wedding Gift Pack' as a gift from The World Federation to help them start off their new lives together with some essential items.

Each Wedding Gift Pack included:

Wedding Gift Pack	
Wedding Garland	Flour container
Hood (kulah)	Pots and pans
Wedding outfit (bride)	Bucket
Wedding travelling expenses	Dinner set
Wedding lunch (waleema)	Custard set
Gas cylinder	Thermos
Sewing machine	Gas stove
Iron	Cutlery set / spoon set
Floor mat	Drinking glasses
Storage chest	Hot pot
Quilt (4)	Tea set
Mattress	Water cooler
Pillows (4)	Pipken set
Bedsheets (2)	Frying pan
Serving tray	Milk bucket



MASS MARRIAGE PROGRAM | PHOTOGRAPHS

