

END OF YEAR
ISSUE

DECEMBER 2021

STANDING TOGETHER

The official newsletter of Thaakat Foundation

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ABOUT US



Thaakat Foundation is a nationally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that believes in restoring hope and courage in the underprivileged by advancing the minds of those who are capable of lending a helping hand. Thaakat Foundation strongly believes in promoting charitable giving and humanitarian work among the youth by selflessly supporting the act of giving back.

We transcend cultural and religious boundaries to create a network of individuals that look to this organization as a project of their own; where no matter your race or creed, you are united with a group of people that share a similar desire to help. Thaakat is a non-religious, non-political organization.

100% of all donated funds go towards our projects. Any overhead expense is covered by kind corporate contributors and sponsors. That's every \$1 to people who need it most. Our entire board works around the clock as volunteers to help make this possible.

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

BY UZMA BAWANY



Dear Donors,

As our year comes to a close, we just want to say a heartfelt thank you. A few weeks ago, our country manager shared a video of young school children in Sierra Leone singing the praises of our donors for their new school building. They said that they would never forget us. When we put an emotion behind what your donation means, this captures it so well. You have completely changed the lives of these 120 students and this change will help them break the chains of generational poverty.

Since our establishment, you've also completely transformed the lives of 1,200 students in Pakistan, 27,000 patients treated at our healthcare facilities in Sierra Leone, 200+ students in Ghana, and countless women and children who you have helped to empower through our literacy, training and farming programs.

Our vision at Thaakat Foundation is an intersection between helping people and doing that in a sustainable mindset. Making sure that our programs help these people lift themselves out of poverty. We want to make sure that whatever we build provides the community with long term security, is eco-friendly and is accessible to every single villager. Sometimes it takes more money and time to get there but we are proud to do it right. Year over year, your belief in what we do has fueled over 2 million dollars of investments in our global communities of Ghana, Pakistan and Sierra Leone. We would love for you to read an update from our global project managers to see what you've made possible in 2021.

Uzma Bawany

MEET THE TEAM



POOJA SONIKAR

Position: Global Statistics and Public Health Lead

Pooja graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Physiology. She is currently an ORISE Research Fellow with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention on the COVID-19 response. As an aspiring physician, Pooja is passionate about empowering patients to take charge of their health and improving access to quality care. She decided to join the Thaakat Foundation because she was inspired by the team's commitment to improving global health and education and hopes to implement public health practices into existing and future projects.

Fun Fact: Pooja is an ordained minister and has a twin brother.

UPESH DESAI

Position: CRM and Annual Tournament Lead

Upesh graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science. He currently works as a Software Developer for ITRS Group. Upesh joined Thaakat Foundation as a volunteer post-grad and became involved with the organization after volunteering at the annual Feed the Need Basketball Tournament. He felt the passion and selflessness that all the members had for helping out those in need, and wanted to be a part of a team like that. From there, he has been helping out with other technical projects such as automating CRM practices and organizing finances for the organization.

Fun Fact: Upesh loves to golf!



ABOUT OUR PROJECTS

ABOUT SIERRA LEONE

Women in rural Blama Perri were either delivering in unsafe conditions in their homes, walking miles to the nearest healthcare facility while in labor or jumping on the back of a bike. These circumstances, coupled with the practices of traditional and spiritual treatment created for one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. In April 2014, we launched Fatmata Maternity Center. When the district noted our success in bringing free and quality healthcare, clean water, electricity and disease prevention programs to this center they approached us for further support. They requested we continue to replicate our successes in villages across Pujehun as the high maternal and child mortality rates were a challenge across the country. In 2018, the government assumed upkeep of services at Fatmata Maternity Center and we shifted to a new rural village where we have been able to launch Healthcare Without Borders.

ABOUT GHANA

Tanobaose, Ghana has seen an influx of people moving into the area. They come to work in the community so that they may support their families. Their children usually do not go to school. Clement “Righteous” Boamah watched this happen, and he had a dream to build a free school that serves children left out of the existing Ghana educational system. Thaakat stepped in on July 1, 2013 and helped him to build a school structure from the ground up. Today, our site has a school, bus, fresh water, supplies, uniforms, a farm, soccer field and a quality teaching staff. Your donation to the Konadu Fund helps to empower and educate the children left out of the Ghana Educational System. The fund covers the education costs of our 200+ students and allows us to plan for expansion and growth.

ABOUT PAKISTAN

More than 100 tons of garbage is dumped in the village of Kachra Kundi, Karachi, Pakistan daily, which has caused excessive pollution and disease in the area. Not only are the residents of Kachra Kundi deprived of civic facilities like clean water, shelter, and electricity, but there had previously been zero access to education in this village- making these children oblivious to the outside world. In 2012, we partnered with the Idara Al Khair Welfare society to help bring hope to this community. Today, we are funding 4 campuses, a medical center and a women’s technical skills center, 70 staff members.

HEALTHCARE WITHOUT BORDERS

BLAMA PERRI, SIERRA LEONE



Over the last 3.5 years in Taninahun, we have invested nearly \$200,000. Our main priority in Sierra Leone has been and continues to be accessible healthcare. With that in mind, we have been able to build a state of the art healthcare center complete with a main center, nurse's quarter, birth waiting room, VIP bathrooms, waste zone, and hut for COVID-19 testing. We have also been able to invest in several programs.

- **Malnutrition Program:** Monthly Sierramix supplement for children classified as mild to moderate malnutrition, monthly growth monitoring, and educational meetings for mothers.
- **Malaria Prevention Program:** Community awareness, random testing, administration of medication to positive individuals, and spraying and covering of mosquito breeding sites.
- **Agriculture Program:** Community garden with ground nuts that are sold at a local market community meetings for women to exchange ideas.

During 2021, we focused on the completion of construction and sustainability of our programs. In March 2021, we were able to complete construction on the Birth Waiting Room. Women in the early stages of labor utilize this space before being moved to the main center. Early in the year, our site manager appealed to us on behalf of the community for construction of a school. The existing school was falling apart and had larger class sizes than space. In June 2021, we were able to begin construction on the school, playground, and bathrooms with the support of a gracious donor. After six months of construction, we were able to host the grand opening of the new school.



Birth Waiting Room completed in March 2021

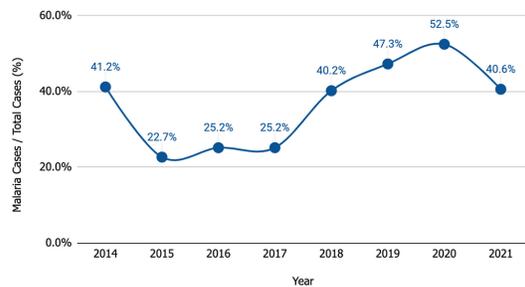


School completed in December 2021

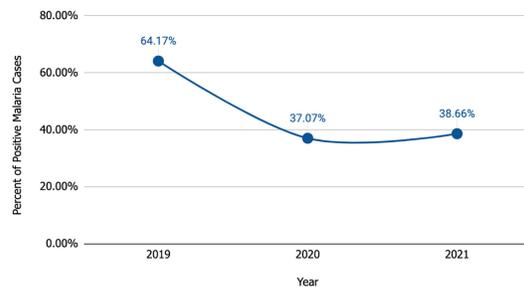
Throughout the year, we have also been able to continue our work with the Malnutrition Program and Malaria Prevention Program, while also investing in a new project. In association with the Malnutrition Program, we were able to teach women how to create the Sierramix supplement. This ensures that the community can continue to care for malnourished children long after we transition out.

The Malaria Prevention Program has been a huge priority for us in every community that we have been in due to the high annual malaria prevalence rates that we have encountered. The annual malaria prevalence has been gradually increasing since 2016. In recent years, nearly 50% of all cases treated at the healthcare center were those associated with malaria. This year, we adjusted our approach and included an additional round of malaria sensitization (vs. 2 rounds of malaria sensitization per year), which has resulted in similar malaria prevalence when compared to 2020. Recently, the World Health Organization announced the rollout of a malaria vaccine in Sub-Saharan Africa. We are hopeful that this vaccine will further aid us in our fight against malaria.

Annual Malaria Prevalence (2014-2021)



Malaria Prevention Program (2019-2021)



In March 2021, we were able to invest in an Agriculture Program for the women in the surrounding communities. These women planted and tended to a community garden with ground nuts. These ground nuts were later harvested and stored for the following year. By empowering women to develop their own community gardens, they are able to use profit to purchase fruits, vegetables, and supplies for their families.

Over the last year, we have accomplished so much! This year, we have seen a total of 3,428 cases and a total of 72 babies have been delivered. Since 2014, we have seen 28,883 total cases and a total of 613 babies have been delivered.

TOP 5 DISEASES TREATED IN 2021			
	ADULTS	ADOLESCENTS	CHILDREN < 5
#1	Malaria	Malaria	Malaria
#2	STI	Worm Infection	ARI/Pneumonia
#3	Gastric Ulcer	Diarrhea (Watery)	Malnutrition
#4	Typhoid Fever	Skin Infection	Diarrhea (Watery)
#5	Genital Discharge	ARI/Pneumonia	Typhoid Fever

KONADU BASIC SCHOOL

TANOBOASE, GHANA

Goals: Investments and expansion of school and farm land. Currently expanding usage of crop cultivation as well as identifying other avenues to increase revenue. The goal is to help these communities sustain growth ON THEIR OWN. Whether that is harvesting their own food, funding education or investing in the lives of disadvantaged children.

In March of 2021, Konadu Basic School transitioned to a new Project Manager, Bhuvana Kamma. The team has further defined and identified the individual role breakdowns to reduce silos and improve communication and collaboration among the onsite and Thaakat team.

KONADU BASIC SCHOOL				
CLEMENTS	MIKE	JUSTICE	UZMA	BHUVANA
<p>Manage site operations</p> <p>Works closely with school staff to monitor student attendance and performance</p>	<p>Supports additional initiatives such as literacy labs, playground, etc.</p> <p>Manages external vendor and donor relationships</p>	<p>Handles budgeting</p> <p>Approves financial requests</p>	<p>Manages Thaakat Foundation finances and overall strategic initiatives</p> <p>Approves initiatives and financial requests</p> <p>Manages external donor relationships</p>	<p>Oversees operations</p> <p>Analyzes initiatives and financial requests</p> <p>Maintain a consistent relationship with the onsite team</p>

March also saw the regrouping of the mushroom farm which temporarily yielded no crops due to contamination near the end of 2020. Although the mushroom has seen an increase in sales over 2021, the ROI has been lower than anticipated and the Konadu team made the decision to shift their focus into expanding other low-risk, high-profit crops such as Cassava, Tomatoes, Cabbage, etc. The farmland has also been fenced and treated for a recent plot-wide terminate infestation to ensure safety and quality of the crops and livestock.



Thus far for the year of 2021, Konadu has received \$64,709 in funding from Thaakat to cover operational costs, expenses for the farmland cultivation and expansion as well as the permanent building structure. Throughout the year, we spent:

- \$1,440 for Orphan Program
- \$2,246 for PPE
- \$2,614 for a fencing around farmland
- \$1,138 for water pipes and pump
- \$1,350 for whiteboards and projectors
- \$1,500 for BECE examination
- \$2,860 for monthly operational expenses
- \$16,386 for permanent building structure



Mike has slowly been fixing the computers in the lab & adding programs such as Rosetta stone so that upper-level students can utilize the lab for academic purposes. Mike has jumpstarted a women student empowerment program that the female teachers will run to better support female students. Office space has been set-up and funded for the school principal and site manager, Clements. Due to the numerous reasons, consistent attendance at Konadu has been an issue that was further propagated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The team is working on incentivizing students via extracurricular activities and ongoing discussion regarding the importance of continuous education for their future.

The Thaakat team is looking to transition out of Konadu by the end of 2022 by helping them reach 100% self-sustainability. To accomplish this goal, the team is continuously looking for opportunities to increase revenue and reduce costs. Items of discussion include charging a small fee for the junior high students, expanding the farmland crops as well as livestock and compost bags, and continuously and meticulously monitoring expenses.

DREAMS FOR KACHRA KUNDI

KARACHI, PAKISTAN

SCHOOLS

Thaakat funded schools include Campus 2 (280+ students), Campus 3 (600+ students), and Campus 8/Girls Campus (200+ students). Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, students encountered an irregular school year. We are grateful for our hardworking staff and teachers who come in daily to make sure students are receiving a proper education. More than 90% of the Idara Al-Khair staff is COVID vaccinated. Despite the hardships encountered in their education, our students showed great dedication to learning. We were able to put smiles on their faces throughout the year with the help of our donors providing surprise trips to amusement parks, moon bounces, picnics, and biryani lunches. To ensure our students receive a well rounded educational experience, we constructed new badminton courts and renovated the existing playground so they can have fun outside the classroom too. In Campus 3, we are making a priority that students keep up with the paradigms in technology. The computer lab renovation was completed with 15 laptops, presentation scree, and AC unit all powered by solar energy. Students have started learning basic computer skills and playing games relating to science/math.

COLLEGE

Idara Al-Khair Intermediary College includes more than 100 students between grades 9 and 10 with almost a 3:1 female to male ratio. In June 2021, we completed construction of a new seminar hall for lectures and installed solar panels for eco-friendly energy source. Despite an erratic school year, our students demonstrated perseverance and a hard work ethic by achieving highest scores to date in pre-engineering (88%) and pre-medical (93%) in national board exams. Thirty high-achieving students will be selected for the Apna scholarship to help offset costs of attending university.



MEDICAL CENTER

The Medical Center was founded in September 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic to address the inadequate healthcare available to our students, their families and the Kachra Kundi community at large. The closest hospital is 10 km away with cost and limited transportation being major reasons why many opt not to seek out healthcare. Initially, the medical center served as an urgent care with ENT services but has now expanded to so much more. The first surgery, a thyroidectomy, was performed in June 2021 and ever since the number of surgeries has been steadily increasing along with the daily patient flow. The increasing number of patients allowed us to hire a full-time general physician and we are now in the process of hiring a pediatrician starting January 2022. Within the next year, the medical center will be expanding to include audiometry testing, ECG/ultrasound diagnostic capabilities, laparoscopic surgery, and phlebotomy for blood collection.



TECHNICAL CENTER

The Women's Technical Center was established as a safe haven for women to gather to learn stitching/sewing and receive a basic education so they can contribute to their households and acquire a sense of independence. The renovated technical center includes sewing stations, instruction room, and play area for kids. Our entire facility runs on solar energy. We currently have a group of 20-25 dedicated women that regularly attend classes. These women have mastered basic stitching, embroidery, and sewing with hand machines and electric machines. We are in the process of setting up an alliance with a Japanese organization as a potential market for their work for compensation.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

January 2021 brought with it one of the coldest winters of the decade for Karachi. Due to the damages from the previous monsoon season, many families lost not only their homes but essential personal items such as blankets and jackets. With the help of One Ummah Foundation and our site partner Idara Al-Khair, more than 2,000 blankets/quilts and jackets were distributed to the Kachra Kundi community and rural areas of Tharparkour, Sindh.

Establishing food sustainability at our project sites has been a central focus over the last year. We aspire to create small community gardens that can feed the students and the local community within the landfill area. After attempting to grow a variety of crops, we achieved the most successful yields with root vegetables such as radishes and carrots that are incorporated into the lunch program at Campus 3.

This year, with the help of our donors we were able to construct 12 solar powered water plants in 15 rural villages for more than 1900 people of Tharparkour in Sindh, Pakistan. 90% of the population in these villages lives below the poverty line without access to clean water. This region is one of the most diverse in Pakistan with over 50% of residents belonging to a religious minority (Hinduism and Sikhism). Malnutrition and water-borne disease are a major public health crisis in this area. Water from wells is used to help progress agriculture and livestock to cultivate their own food resources. Each solar-powered water plant costs \$2,200 to construct but will leave an everlasting impact in these communities.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

This year, with the support of our donors and supporters, we were able to invest more in global projects than ever before. We continue to challenge ourselves by increasing project load and you have helped us by trusting us with more year over year donations to be able to meet our goals. 91% of our proceeds raised this year have already been applied to our project sites. The remainder will be leveraged to cover investments through quarter one of next year.

We strive to put every dollar raised directly towards our projects. With the year coming to a close we are in need of funds to carry out of work in 2022.

INCOME				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Campus Chapters	\$14,066	\$6,855	\$6,795	\$1,358
Corporate Contributions	\$44,661	\$71,789	\$62,924	\$45,635
General Donations	\$191,163	\$238,967	\$320,041	\$375,314
Grants	\$48,756	\$65,233	\$47,816	\$48,700
Sponsorships	\$7,600	\$4,600	\$1,751	\$3,900
	\$306,246	\$387,444	\$439,327	\$474,907

EXPENSES - GLOBAL PROJECTS				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Pakistan	\$190,905	\$225,710	\$309,940	\$285,102
Ghana	\$50,326	\$69,087	\$50,748	\$64,710
Sierra Leone	\$37,782	\$56,874	\$49,401	\$82,642
Miscellaneous	\$1,465	\$200	\$0	\$0
	\$280,478	\$351,871	\$410,089	\$432,453

HOW TO HELP



SPONSOR A CHILD FOR \$25 A MONTH

Your monthly contribution helps provide the year long support for a well deserving child, including:

- Books, supplies and facilities for the year
- General Healthcare and Emergency Medical Aid
- Weekly visits with students' families for counseling and encouraging attendance, especially among young girls
- An investment in ongoing expansion of classrooms
- Maintenance and operations of newly installed water filtration systems that for the first time in the area, provide fresh, safe water

* You can cancel or change your monthly support at any time

GENERAL DONATION

More than 85% of total funding comes from the general public. We don't have big pockets but we hope to achieve great things and can only do this with your support. As much as we plan ahead, we are always in need of funds. Your donation to our general fund helps to ensure we are covered especially in our most difficult times. Donations are distributed across project sites in Ghana, Sierra Leone and Pakistan. 100% of proceeds will go towards these causes.

DONATION TO A SPECIFIC PROJECT

- Healthcare Without Borders
- Konadu Basic School
- Dreams for Kachra Kundi