



ASIAN REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Bangladesh	Dhaka Email: ywca@bdmail.net
Literacy and education	<p>In Bangladesh, where the adult literacy rate is 38% and nearly 30% of the population lives on less than one dollar a day, the YWCA provides a Free School and Vocational Training Centre in Dhaka for children aged 9-12 years old from very poor families. This not only provides formal education for children, but also develops skills for future employment such as weaving and carpentry training. Since 1996, the YWCA of Dhaka has also operated a Girls High School. Throughout the country, the YWCA operates both free and fee-paying school services through its presence in nine major areas in Bangladesh. These reach approximately 8000 children each year. The YWCA's programme is unique in comparison to other education services because of its holistic approach to development. Not only does the YWCA provide education, but it also operates a community health programme for the children participating in schools to ensure they can participate in education to their full capacity. This programme targets both the children and their families, providing primary health care, immunization, family planning, health and nutrition education, maternal and child health care, as well as access to clean water and sanitation. The overall programme benefits more than 17,000 people each year. In addition to this, the YWCA provides literacy training for the mothers of students, enabling them to play a role in their child's development, and supports women with micro credit and training to develop income generation sources for their families.</p>

Bangladesh	Dhaka Email: ywca@bdmail.net
Microcredit	<p>US \$50 enabled a woman living in the Lalkhan bazaar urban slum area to start her own business, buying sarees wholesale, which she then sold for profit to repay the loan and invest in her business. Married at the age of 12, she now has economic security and improved living conditions, with the ability to afford a larger one roomed house, a fan and a television. Similarly, a village woman, who could not afford to buy a kilo of rice to feed her family, took a loan from the YWCA and used the money to buy a dairy cow. Five years later, she is now selling cow milk and meat at the local market, as well as earning income from goats, ducks and poultry. Today, she can afford to buy over 40 kilos of rice a month as a result of the initial loan.</p> <p>These two women are part of the micro credit scheme run by the YWCA in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Each area has a supervisor, who is in charge of the programme and organises monthly collections of savings, loan repayments and reports, as well as loan provision.</p>

Bangladesh	Dhaka Email: ywca@bdmail.net
Emergency Needs and Rehabilitation following floods	<p>In the rainy season due to heavy rainfall and the flow of upward water in the river the whole Chandpur town was inundated and the stagnant water remained for July and August 2004. The YWCA provided for 1,378 beneficiaries the following items: rice, potatoes, salt, emergency lodging.</p>

India	New Delhi Email: ywcaind@vsnl.com
Awareness and prevention	<p>Although the HIV prevalence rate in India is low (0.07%), as one of the world's most populated countries, the actual number of people infected is high - a 0.1% increase in the prevalence rate would result in over half a million new infections. Within the country, HIV/AIDS is often perceived as a disease of "others" living on the margins of society. Discrimination, stigma and denial impede appropriate policies for care of those infected and affected.</p> <p>To spread awareness of HIV/AIDS and to challenge existing attitudes, the YWCA of India has developed a nationwide action plan on HIV and AIDS. Last year 21 local YWCAs attended a five day workshop on Women's Leadership for HIV and AIDS Awareness and Prevention, which aimed to facilitate new HIV and AIDS programmes and strengthen existing work. The association's outreach offers enormous potential to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS and includes many poor and marginalised groups of people, students, sex workers, women and migrant labourers. Extensive work is already underway in the northern region with a four year HIV and AIDS project, which utilises a variety of strategies and forums to reach out to women, young girls, commercial sex workers, policy makers and religious leaders.</p>

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<p>Young Women's Leadership Development and Involvement for Action</p>	<p>To develop the leadership capacity of young women especially on the issues of violence against women (dowry, female foeticide and rape) and discrimination & exclusion (dalits, adivasis and HIV and AIDS affected) From a large group of young women invited by the YWCA to discussions on oppressive traditional practices and issues of stigma, especially as regards HIV & AIDS, 120 young women from the five regions with the potential and desire to partake in leadership training were chosen to participate in a regional level training for capacity building and leadership development on these issues. Thirty of these women will continue on and receive training at the national level in order to draw up an action plan for addressing violence against women and the issues of discrimination and exclusion and for developing strategies and a methodology for sustainability. The 30 young women will have the task of disseminating the information and training and building awareness among other women at the local levels.</p>
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<p>India</p> <p>Building hope for future progress - YWCA of Cuttack</p>	<p>New Delhi Email: ywcaind@vsnl.com</p> <p>The Family Counselling programme counselled 470 women during the year for problems including domestic violence, physical, mental, and financial torture by male and female family members. For young girls, they dealt with misconceptions of marriage, bridegroom, age of the bride, groom selection, and economic status of the bride. The Computer Training programme has benefited 450 participants from which 20 are now employed and 100 have carried on with higher education. The Skill Training programme benefited 497 adolescent slum girls who are now earning US \$10-20 per month. Beneficiaries of the programme included: Gitanjali Nayak of Makarbag sahi, whose husband is no longer a drug and alcohol abuser. Tapswini Samal of Matha sahi, who was repeatedly threatened with divorce and abduction of her son. Following constant counseling, she now lives with her son and is in the process of opening a shop where she will sell items she learned to make in the Skill Training programme.</p>
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<p>India</p> <p>Community College</p>	<p>New Delhi Email: ywcaind@vsnl.com</p> <p>The Community College is an alternative system of education to the formal system. Its objective is to empower the excluded and the underprivileged through appropriate skill development and personality development. It continues to produce trained nursing assistants, shop assistants, and office assistants.</p>
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<p>India</p> <p>Girls Town Pastor Pfeiffer Home</p>	<p>New Delhi Email: ywcaind@vsnl.com</p> <p>Pastor Pfeiffer Home a Home for the 50 under privileged children takes care of physical, educational and emotional needs of the children with love and understanding. Unit I is managed by the YWCA, sponsors and donors. Unit II consisting of 25 girls below 18 years receives grant from the Directorate of Social Welfare.</p>
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<p>Indonesia</p> <p>Leadership Training: Women are leading change</p>	<p>Jakarta Email: ywca_ind@lycos.com</p> <p>To train leaders from local YWCAs to promote leadership development, gender awareness, HIV and AIDS and peace building, in local communities where the YWCA works and is present As a new YWCA not yet affiliated to the World YWCA, the YWCA in Indonesia is carrying out training on the YWCA movement and priority issues for members of local communities in order to work with them to find possibilities for a YWCA response to the challenges they face. Participants at the national training event develop their skills in planning and implementing relevant programmes based on the needs of the community and follow up through local leadership training programmes. The major components of the training are: understanding Christian faith and spirituality from a feminist perspective, the priority issues of the world movement in relation to national and local realities and developing a YWCA response for gender equality, peace and social transformation.</p>
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<p>Indonesia</p> <p>Free Emergency Medical Services Shelter</p>	<p>Jakarta Email: ywca_ind@lycos.com</p> <p>December 2004 the Tsunami caused massive death and destruction with over 130,000 casualties in Indonesia. The YWCA of Indonesia collaborated with the YMCA Medan, the Nias Community Enlightenment Advocacy Institution, the Indonesian Council of Churches and the Obor Indonesia Foundation to bring free medical services to those in need. On January 21, 2005, the YWCA served about 110 people in a five-hour period at the Tenun</p>
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	Street Shelter in Medan, North Sumatera. The following day, they served 45 of the 60 people living in Aceh Sepakat in Medan, North Sumatera. In February, the YWCA assisted 170 people living at Nias Island and 250 in Sirombu. Medicine was provided to the Aceh Spakat Shelter, the Pidie Shelter, and other shelters.
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Nepal	Kathmandu Email: ywca@wlink.com.np
Non-Formal education facilitator training 2nd grant	To increase literacy level among women by training Non Formal Education (NFE) trainers from local communities, to provide an income generation source for the trainers. The YWCA is in its 11th year of NFE education training and has already held a first facilitator training in 2004 which proved to be such a success that a second training was planned in 2005 to answer demand. 20 women from Far West Nepal and the valley are trained to facilitate an NFE programme in their local communities and are given some assistance in, for example, the rent of an appropriate building, purchasing materials and covering the cost for lighting. Evaluation visits are made by a local field worker. In 2006 the YWCA plans to receive further funding from local churches, NGOs and women's groups as a result of regular networking and partnership.

Pakistan	Lahore Email: ywcapak@brain.net.pk
Literacy and education	Lack of education can sometimes keep women in the dark about their human rights and prohibit them from achieving their full potential. In Pakistan, the YWCA is working to provide an education to women from slum areas, where living conditions are very poor, and women's movement is often restricted-- sometimes they can only go outside their homes when accompanied by male relatives. Through the YWCA's established vocational schools and literacy centres, women are taught reading, writing and numeric skills, and are educated about reproductive health care and rights. By addressing the problem of illiteracy, women are now able to read newspapers and books to their children, and manage household accounts. They also have increased awareness of human rights and self esteem.

Pakistan	Lahore Email: ywcapak@brain.net.pk
Adult Literacy and Awareness - South Lahore	Two adult literacy centres opened in FC College, Katchi Abadi, Lahore - 35 women trained and Kot Lakhpat, Bahar Colony, Lahore - 14 women trained. Training also includes awareness raising on health and health facilities (including HIV & AIDS, hepatitis and breast cancer), and art, human rights, environment, family relations, legal rights. Challenges: to convince parents to allow their daughters to attend classes which takes time away from employment in factories and as domestic maids.

Pakistan	Lahore Email: ywcapak@brain.net.pk
Commerical Computer Education	12 computers purchased, 2 teachers hired. 15 students are taught computer skills at courses held in mornings for students and evening for students already in employment. Project should be self reliant in 2006. Challenges: lack of transport for women students means women are not attending evening classes

Pakistan	Lahore Email: ywcapak@brain.net.pk
Initiative in favour of Afghan refugees and those living in slum area	YWCA of Peshawar runs vocational training and health clinics in Afghan refugee camps and local communities in Azakhail Bala and Fathers Colony, Yousaf Abdad. Health training was carried out for local health workers in ante and post natal care: still same old methods are in practice and no-one from the community is taking action towards this game of death, because they don't want to send their women into clinic or hospitals. Poor women have no choice but to die at home. YWCA provided delivery kits to women who completed the course. HIV and AIDS awareness sessions held at refugee camp and local community. Cholera and typhoid awareness week organised for children and mothers. In October 2005 an earthquake struck and the YWCA pooled money and resources with



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	other groups to send to Hazara, YWCA of Pindi involved. Vocational training centre for Afghan refugee women held in local premises, 12-15 women attend courses which are offered five days a week for small fee.
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Pakistan	Lahore Email: ywcapak@brain.net.pk
Teacher Training Institute	Six months teacher training course run by YWCA of Karachi includes English, maths, science, teaching methods, child and education psychology, class management, and Urdu (national language). Classes held three times a week with courses run by qualified teachers who accepted reduced rates. 2004: 22 teachers trained, 2005 13 teachers trained. Some of the students have since obtained jobs

Sri Lanka	Colombo 3 Email: natywca@sltnet.lk
AIDS education	Prison inmates and workers alike are benefiting from the three-pronged approach to prevent the spread of HIV in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The education programme covers HIV and AIDS in the workplace, reducing stigma and discrimination, and encouraging people to come forward for testing and counselling. The Kandy YWCA is also using this approach with schools in the area. The YWCA of Sri Lanka encourages its local associations to deal with these three issues together. Educating people on how to deal with colleagues living with HIV and AIDS is one step towards reducing the stigma and discrimination attached to the virus. These programmes are recognised as part of the Sri Lankan government's work to reduce the spread of HIV.