



First FREE EAR CAMP in SKARDU in June 2024

After we set up the AUDIOLOGY SKARDU at our partner's NARGIS KHATOON SCHOOL FOR DEAF in November last year, with the team (Michael Eggers, Hans Joachim Gerber, Hans Buerstein, Heinke Hedler and Ismail Muhammad as Trainee) we flew to the mountains of the KARAKORUM to conduct the first FREE EAR CAMP in GILGIT-BALTISTAN from June 10th to 16th.



Approach to SKARDU located 2,500 m above sea level



The Team

The aim was to examine 30 children from the school for hearing losses and to adapt hearing aids donated from GERMANY to them.

In addition to examining and caring for the children, another purpose of this camp was to teach and train employees of the NARGIS KHATOON SCHOOL FOR DEAF and the HASHIM WELFARE HOSPITAL.

The HASHIM WELFARE HOSPITAL, where we have already executed five FREE EAR CAMPS, will in the future have to carry out the AUDIOLOGY task independently without our on-site help. We will continue to support the hospital with used hearing aids.

In the NARGIS KHATOON FOR DEAF we had already experienced during the setting up of the AUDIOLOGY in November last year that they want to learn quickly in order to 'stand on their own feet' and to be able to offer examination and care to the hearing-impaired children in BALTISTAN 'all year round'.

In keeping with our motto of *helping people help themselves*, we don't want our partners to assume that in the long term specialists from GERMANY will come once a year and care for hearing-impaired children. They should be able to carry out all the the work of an AUDIOLOGY independently as soon as possible.



An experience is the 'silent' morning assembly



Teacher Training

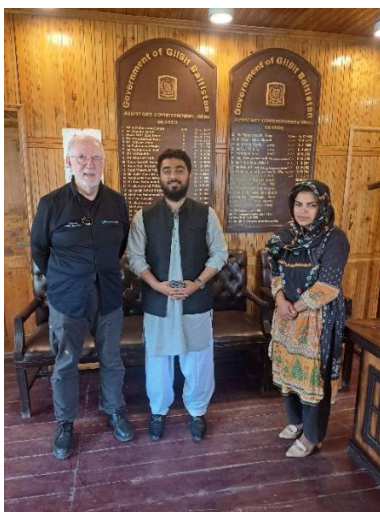


Naseem screening



Ismail taking an ear impression

Naseem (NARGIS KHATOON SCHOOL FOR DEAF) and Ismail (HASHIM WELFARE HOSPITAL) are very committed to their work, learn quickly, now have the basic knowledge required of an audiologist and are skilled in their work. We were particularly pleased to see that both of them adapted well to the little patients and were able to gain their trust



The very active founders and leaders of the NKSD have been doing everything they can for years to report about their school in the region and to make people aware of how children with hearing impairments can be supported. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister GILGIT – BALTISTAN, after visiting the school, decided to provide a plot of land for an urgently required new building. At an appointment with **Assistant Commissioner Skardu**, he informed HJ Gerber and Aniq Bano that he would soon select a respective piece of land.

A plan for the new building has already been drawn up by the chairman PHzSHeV. The funds required for construction will have to be provided from PAKISTAN. An 'exciting project' for the next few years!



Whenever we have funds available, we offer the children a good and hearty lunch on a **FOOD DAY**. This time it was cooked at school – and the children clearly enjoyed it.



Our charity member, the dentist and chairman of the charity **We.Care e.V.** Düsseldorf **Dr. Kashif Chughtai**, had expressed his long-standing interest in having a mobile dental clinic built in PAKISTAN and thus being able to reach people who have never seen a dentist in their life.

HJ Gerber, who is an honorary member of **We.Care e.V.** and who helped prepare and run the first dental camps in NATHIA GALI and KARACHI, used the time in SKARDU to assess the situation '**Perspective Mobile Dental Clinic in BALTISTAN**'.

Gerber was able to involve the young dentist from SKARDU Dr. Munawar Qasim in the project, one of the two dentists in the greater BALTISTAN area. Initial planning for the Mobile Dental Clinic is expected to begin this year.

What will happen next with the AUDIOLOGY SKARDU project? The very good experiences in setting up the AUDIOLOGY and in the first FREE EAR CAMP enable further operations in SKARDU with significantly reduced personnel deployment. We will be able to use the donations that will be saved to purchase new, very powerful hearing aids, which are urgently needed for the children of the NKSD. To our great joy and satisfaction, the **NARGIS KHATOON SCHOOL FOR DEAF SKARDU** is proving to be a 'flagship project' that will give perspective to the lives of hearing-impaired children in the entire mountain region of BALTISTAN.

**Thank you to all donors who are supporting us
and thus are giving us the opportunity to finance this project!**

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