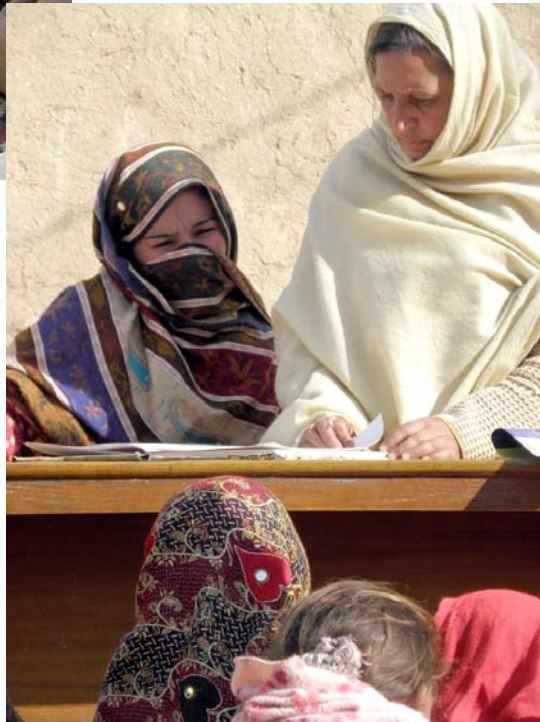


Annual Report Binte Malakand 2009



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(31st December 2009)

All of us want to thank our supporters who have generously contributed to the continuation and success of our education programme. Binte Malakand and all its partner men, women and children have passed through difficult circumstances recently - but the schools survived because many did not let them die!!



1. About Binte Malakand

Binte Malakand is a small local Non Governmental Organization (NGO) registered under Voluntary Social Welfare Act 1961. The NGO emerged out of a private voluntary initiative of two women from Malakand Agency who worked as female extension workers in a Pak-Holland funded Malakand Social Forestry Project (funded by Governments of Holland and NWFP, Pakistan) in 1987. The NGO was registered in 1998. The main purpose to found this organization was to provide an opportunity for education to children of Malakand, especially girls, from poor households. Malakand is a tribal area administered under North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan. The source of inspiration was our awareness and protest against the malpractices going on in our feudal environment. One of the most painful local practices was that girls were engaged as servants at the homes of feudal lords with nominal or no remuneration, opted by parents who were indebted to those lords due to their eminent poverty and thought that this was the only way to pay back! This is not exactly bonded labour – but certainly excluding girls from any opportunities to either get education or at least get a reasonable salary with a defined period to make up their lives. Binte-Malakand believes that this practice, which still prevails in some shape, is an open violation of human rights and a societal prejudice against girl child.

There are many schools established by the government in Malakand which are supposed to serve village population. However most of them are inaccessible to the children from poorest families either due to distance from their hamlets or the formalities involved in getting education from those schools are many and expensive for them to bear. Moreover, in a rural society, boys were the lucky ones whose education is considered to be more important by poor parents as they think that they would feed the parents once they grow old. Girls were easier to be pulled back from the schools and engaged on farms with the parents or sent to Khan's home for serving his wife and baby sit their kids. Besides, the rural society is rather traditional and many did not believe that girls should even need education. Hence making a choice in a poor family for who and who goes to school, girls often lost the case.

The NGO decided to focus on education – especially for girls. Binte Malakand established a number of primary schools for girls, not excluding boys. The schools followed government syllabus and all the rules and regulations followed by government system of education. The system of examination was governed by district education department. These linkages were established in order to make the school certificate recognized by government for education beyond primary level. As of today, there are five schools functioning in five villages of Malakand with 337 students (around 290 girls and 47 boys). So far, one school in Kot Village has been handed over to the government and the village children continue to seek education in that school.

This report covers details for 2009 and a brief project for 2010.

2. Context 2009

Malakand and its adjoining districts have been attended by several development projects in the past since 1980s. Due to this factor and the fact that Malakand is closely situated with a few important urban centers (e.g. Swat, Mardan, Peshawar) which have a high preference for education, the people of Malakand are keen to invest in their tomorrow. The interest for sending children to schools for education is reportedly increasing.

In 2008 and 2009, the main contextual change / phenomenon was tension due to an open confrontation by militants and religious extremists in the area. It is known that extremism was already incubating in Malakand and adjoining districts for many years. In 2008 extremists announced war against pro-American government after the incidence of Red Mosque in

Islamabad. In 2009 the military conducted an operation against the militants and that forced several hundred thousand of people to leave their homes and become refugee within their own country. In August 2009 the military operation was over and areas were declared clean. Normal life activities were resumed and people started returning homes. Even today however, military operation is going on in few parts of Malakand and Swat. Extremists are still active in a few places and are using people as a human shield. In two villages out of five where Binte Malakand is currently active, extremist elements still dominate local population. In the middle of this context, Binte has continued its education programme and still maintains four schools with 337 children and nine lady teachers. The fifth school needs a revival – section 3 has more details.

3. Enrolment and drop out records 2009

As of December 2009, the enrolment situation in the four schools is as followed:

**Table 1: Enrolment school wise
As of December 2009**

Class/ School	Aladand	Dargai	Batkkhela	Matkanai	Total
Nursery	11	30	20	28	89
1	16	5	15	19	55
2	14	15	10	22	61
3	8	13	15	18	54
4	8	0	16	24	48
5	8	0	7	15	30
Total	65	63	83	126	337

The year 2009 was a record bad year in terms of drop outs from school. This is highly tragic to see that not only children dropped out due to temporary migration after internal displacement of population during military operation but also due to other factors.

Of the other factors, the most important one is *Talibanisation* or the associated threats from extremists. There are several families who migrated due to worsening of security situation. Many families have not returned yet since in 2 of 5 villages still suffer from sub optimal security situation. However, some of the families who have returned are still reluctant to send their children (especially girls) to schools. This is either due to their fear of extremists who have sent out clear warnings against girls' education, or due to their erosion of motivation and belief on girls' education. The latter can be termed as '*talibanization*' – changing mindsets back to when we had started this NGO – a negative anti development propaganda which extremists have successfully achieved. Sadly, some of other malpractices are also returning such as marrying girls at very early age.

Binte Malaknad and several other development projects have made huge investments in bringing a positive social transformation. However as a result of unfortunate phase of *Talibanization*, this seems to be reversing fast, unless checked with a full force (awareness raising, continuous dialogue). This reversal cannot be handled alone by Binte Malakand. Government has to take a strong stand in this regard and reinvest in sensitizing people to be open to new ideas and new developments.

The following table provides details for drop out. In the bottom some specific reasons for drop out are also provided:

Table 2: Details of drop out from schools

<i>Class/ School</i>	<i>Aladand *</i>	<i>Dargai **</i>	<i>Batkkhela ***</i>	<i>Matkanai ****</i>	<i>Total</i>
Nursery	19	10	10	2	41
1	14	10	5	7	36
2	6	4	10	3	23
3	12	7	5	0	24
4	7	0	10	0	17
5	3	0	11	5	19
Total	61	31	51	17	160

* Security / migration – some families never came back (although we expect some may come back later). The village is still tense. A few families have returned but are frightened to send girls to school.

** A few families shifted their houses. Another reason is that few parents are not cooperating (especially fathers) and they need more awareness. The teacher went home to home to recreate interest for girls' education.

*** Security / migration (some of the houses were burnt). Sifting of houses since most of the people live in rented houses - a few parents shifted girls to religious school due to preference for religious education (increased trend after Talibans).

**** In Matkanai there was a case of sexual abuse of a 9 years old girl (from a government school) by a 50 years old man from a landlord family. The event triggered fire in the village, yet no one could even touch him. Many parents removed their young girls from schools after this event. An awareness raising campaign is being launched by Binte Malakand to rebuild confidence.

4. Overall progress of children

The children in general are taking a lot of interest in education. Most are punctual and are keen to attend schools. Most of the parents are also interested and aware. The teachers' feedback shows that several new admissions are expected next year.

Aladand: Children are taking interest. Most don't miss their schools. There are in all 3 children that we can remember are frequently absent. We continuously talk to parents on such issues. We took our 3-5 grades classes to Matkanai School so that they can see the performance of school and do well as Matkanai. Often children miss school for fetching firewood with their parents. The school management committee is functioning well in Aladand.

Dargai: Children have high interest and are very keen. However parents are sometimes irresponsible. They come and take the child away (especially girls) in the middle of school hours for any social reason (e.g. marriage). Parents are fully cognizant of better quality of school here. But still there is a lot of need to raise awareness and discussion with parents that they should stop to take school and girls education non-seriously. The school management committee needs revival.

Batkhela: Children as such take a lot of interest and are good. Our results are always excellent. Few parents have casual attitude (3, 4 families) and take children away from school especially when they visit their relatives in another village for weeks. The school right now operates in a private house. We had to shift due to very expensive rental buildings in Batkhela. We are trying to find our own place where we can afford and stay longer. School management committee in this village needs to be reorganized.

Matkanai: Mothers' association is very strong (school management committee). They meet on monthly basis. We give them all sorts of feedback to improve children's performance and they suggest us things to improve school. Building is old and no water supply available for some reason. Yet parents are very active and highly interested. Even if a child is absent for

2 days, we follow up and check. Children take a high interest and their performance is very high. A lot of people are interested to have admissions for their children here.

In March 2009, 22 girls from two of Binte schools appeared in 5th grade examination. The exam was conducted by District Education Officer (DEO) from Government. All the 22 girls have passed examination and received a lot of appreciation from the DEO.

Table 3: Exam results of 5th grade

<i>Class/ School</i>	<i>Aladand</i>	<i>Dargai</i>	<i>Batkkhela</i>	<i>Matkanai</i>	<i>Total</i>
Passed	7	0	0	15	22
Failed	0			0	0
Percentage	100%			100%	100%
Total	7			15	22

5. Summary of schools which were closed down in 2008-09 or earlier

The spirit of teachers is very high and in fact they are the ones, together with the NGO management, who have kept the school going in difficult circumstances. Some individual remarks about schools are as follows, learned from teachers and observed during school monitoring in the field:

1. **Khar School:** This school has temporarily been closed (April 2009) due to the threats from Taliban generally against any women based activities (never to our school). Recently, the NGO has learned (September 2009) that that situation is calm and the representatives of Talibans have already allowed opening of schools. It will however take time to restore community's and teacher's confidence that they should send children to the school. Recently a detailed dialogue has been conducted in Khar village and several parents are highly keen to reopen the school. The school will be reopened in February 2010.
2. **Haryan Kot (Established 1998):** The school has closed in August 2008. The school has been handed over to the government. The main reason of closure was financial constraint with the NGO. The pupils from this school have been absorbed by government schools in close vicinity and there is no longer a need for this school to operate.
3. **Brah (established 2004):** Closed July 2008. The school closed when several Internally Displaced People (IDPs) from Bajaur Agency came to this village and nearly every house hosted them in the village. This village (and Kot) is at the boundary of Bajaur Agency. The agency was under a huge military operation due to Talibans and nearly 600,000 people fled from the agency to take refuge in several parts of NWFP. The situation needs to be explored in the village to assess whether the school can be reopened safely or not.
4. **Kot Mena (established 1998):** Closed in Aug 08. The reasons for closing the school is just the same as described for Brah.
5. **Bazdara (established 1998):** Closed in Aug 08. This school was disturbed when a national NGO called National Rural Support Programme came to the village and opened a new school (rather than founding on Binte school). They also introduced a concept of 'cash reward' for children joining the school. Hence most of the children opted to join that school. The NGO then decided to wind up from there. Only few months after then, the NRSP school was closed down. The communities are now calling NGO to reopen the school as children have ended up without any school. However reactivation is still a big question mark and needs careful re-assessment.

6. Assets with the schools

During 2009, the schools were provided a few things from the budget. The details are as followed:

Table 4: Assets provided / replaced 2009 (items lost earlier than this replenishment in the footnote)

<i>Class/ School</i>	<i>Aladand</i>	<i>Dargai</i>	<i>Batkkhela</i>	<i>Matkanai</i>	<i>Total</i>
Black boards	2	2	2	2	8
School chairs			27		27
Mats	4	4	4	4	16
Registers	6	5	5	12	28
Fans	2		2		4
Books	Worth of 10,275		Worth of 1500		
Bell				1	

** One old black board is totally gone, now 2.

*** One blackboard and one water cooler lost due to flood

**** Four water coolers are totally broken. One fan has burnt and is to be replaced

Hence including these, in December 2009, each school has following assets for functioning:

Table 5: Total assets as of December 2009

<i>Class/ School</i>	<i>Aladand</i>	<i>Dargai</i>	<i>Batkkhela</i>	<i>Matkanai</i>	<i>Total</i>
Black boards	4	2	2	4	12
Teachers chairs	2	2	2	3	9
Table	2	2	2	2	8
School chairs	96	17	27	0	140
Mats	4	4	4	8	20
Registers	6	5	5	12	28
Fans	2	1	2	1	6
Water cooler	2	0	0	2	4
Bell	1	0	0	1	2

7. Challenges 2009

1. The main highlighting challenge of the year was initially the unrest from Extremists – followed by, military operation and later a huge internal displacement of local population to other parts of Pakistan. This caused physical threat to schools and also life threats to teachers and girl students. One thing is however worth noticing that no direct threat was received by our schools. The schools were kept closed during following periods for security reasons:

Matkanai: 16th May to 1st August

Aladand: 8th May – 1st August

Dargai: 1st June – 1st August + curfew days in between

Batkhela: 15th may – 1st August

Khar: April 2009 (totally closed)

In order to compensate for the loss of time, winter vacation will be rather brief. The teachers fear that they will not be able to complete their syllabi during limited time and students will have to appear in exams with two third of their preparation. This is the case

in all the schools in Malakand. Therefore they are focusing at the most important parts of syllabi rather than rushing through everything.

2. Increased trend of attending religious Madrissas after recent conflict has been observed. Besides, as mentioned earlier, the conflict has resulted in increased *talibanization* at least for the moment either due to fear or due to changing mindset. If acted quickly, people can be brought back to normal life and made to believe that education and better livelihood is the best remedy against extremism – and extremism does not bring them anything.
3. Mobility of female staff of Binte Malakand has become quite difficult due to prevailing extremist influence in the area. Bank account could not be operated since April 2009 since the bank is situated in the market place and the location poses threat to NGO staff, especially women (which are seen as agents of foreign agenda). A great care is taken during school monitoring trips. Alternate solutions have been found to sustain financial flow for running schools. A private fund-raising at Malakand level has also been challenged due to prevailing situation.
4. Availability of text books has remained an issue in 2009 (and 2008). These books are kept under strict control of government and are not available in the market. They first meet their own needs and then worry about private schools. This is the reason that the books are always supplied late.
5. Currently each school is under immense pressure for replenishment of little assets. Mats and blackboards were provided some years ago and have worn out. Number of children per school is increasing and teachers need more things for them to manage them. This includes very simple things such as good quality mats which are good enough in cold season too, blackboards, sporting items, etc.
6. School buildings in very early years of Binte used to be private houses of villagers who offered their premises for schools. The schools have also functioned in teachers' home, though the experience was not as good with this option. With increasing number of children and grades in schools, rented premises have been acquired. Yet, these premises are extremely basic (though cheap) and have several problems (e.g. no toilet, no water, no electricity, no boundary walls). Teachers have insisted for better premises. When one hand extremists are busy in reversing people's interest for schools, bad quality environment for children in school in no way provides any motivation for parents to continue with education. In 2010 therefore, 3 schools will shift to slightly better and safer premises (close to the existing ones).

8. Monitoring

School programme is monitored through the following ways:

1. School Management Committees (SMC): These are mothers' associations which also act as SMC. In case of Matkanai and Aladand, the SMCs are highly active and meet on monthly basis. In case of Dargai, Batkhela and Khar, these committees need to be reorganized and strengthened. Besides, fathers / male members of communities also need to be engaged for schools' support since only women's engagement in NGO can invite trouble. This would only be possible when Binte Malakand will engage a male staff to engage with men. For female management of Binte Malakand and for teachers this would not be possible in the post conflict situation.
2. Regular visits from Binte Malakand management to schools.

3. Government school teachers also visit the schools sometimes as per understanding with Binte Malakand. The District Education Officer also regularly visits the schools and provides her support.
4. Six monthly meetings were held with school volunteer patron Arjumand Nizami in Peshawar. All the teachers participated in the meetings and provided a detail on schools progress. These meetings also focused on financial monitoring and making projections for future.
5. This year one visit could be paid by Mr. Tahir Saleem (volunteer) from Peshawar to the schools. He also shot students pictures and recorded teachers' interviews on video. He is preparing a flash documentary on the school

9. Financial details 2009

A detailed financial overview is provided in the table. During 2009, a total expenditure was Rs.670,852 of which Rs.381202 was contributed by Holland Foundation for Education in Pakistan (57%) and 280,830 was contributed by Binte Malakand (43%).

Table 6: Financial details 2009
Pak Rupees

Total Funds received:		Holland March 09	213564.65		
		Holland September 09	255717.00		
		Total fund provided	469281.65		
S.No.	Expense head	Total Amount	Holland Contribution	Binte Contribution	Remarks
1	Teacher Salaries	231950	226950	5000	20% raise, Sept-09 (Govt. Notification)
2	School bld rents	27500	27500	0	
3	Black boards	11200	11200	0	
4	School utility bills	5016	5016	0	
5	Purchase of chairs	6750	6750	0	
6	Purchase of mats	7500	7500	0	
7	Office rent	45000	0	45000	
8	Office utility charges	7000	0	7000	
9	Transportation/logistics	25000	0	25000	
10	Support staff Bint office	108360	0	108360	
11	Children cloths	0	0	0	
12	School stationary	0	0	0	
13	School books	41775	11775	30000	
14	Office Stationary	850	0	850	
15	School shifting charges	550	550	0	
16	Fan for school	3400	3400	0	
17	Water cooler for school	500	500	0	
18	Internet charges	0	0	0	
19	School results day	5000	0	5000	Little gifts for children
	Total	527351	301141	226210	

Expenses expected in last quarter 2009

	Expense head	Total Amount	Holland Contribution	Binte Contribution	Remarks
1	Teacher Salaries	57750	57750	0	
2	School building rents	11200	11200	0	
3	School utility bills	5431	5431	0	

4	Transportation	15000	2500	500	
5	School stationary	0	3180	0	Expense in August 09
6	Office Utility bills	3000	0	3000	
7	Office Rent	15000	0	15000	
8	School shifting charges	36120	0	36120	Batkhela
	Total	143501	80061	54620	

Total Expenses	670852
Contribution from Holland	381202
Contribution from Binte	280830
Cash received from Holland	469281.65
Expected balance cash in hand on 31st Dec	88079.65

10. Outlook 2010

1. The current schools will be strengthened and continued. In 2010, following enrolment level is projected / foreseen:

Table 7: Next year enrollment projection 2010

Class/ School	Aladand	Dargai	Batkkhela	Matkanai	Khar	Total
Nursery	30	30	30	30	30	150
1	11	30	20	28	0	89
2	16	5	15	19	0	55
3	14	15	10	22	0	61
4	8	13	15	18	0	54
5	8	0	16	24	0	48
Total	87	93	106	141	30	457

2. Khar school will be reopened
3. Three school management committees will be reorganized while other two will be strengthened
4. 3 schools will shift buildings.
5. A well organized effort will be made to boost morale of parents and enhance motivation of people. This includes a well-celebrated results day in end of March (for which gifts collection campaign has already started and we have so far received 45 gifts of used toys and other goodies), visits to schools and meetings with parents, engaging local religious leaders, cross visits to Matkanai school, etc.
6. Some of the assets will be improved in all school. Following things are needed in the schools:

Table 8: Needs for 2010

Class/ School	Aladand	Dargai	Batkkhela	Matkanai	Khar	Total
Black boards	1	2	4	3	2	12
Teachers chairs	2	2	2	3	2	11
Table					2	2
School chairs		10				10
Mats	4	4	4	4	4	20
Registers	2	2	2	2	2	10
Fans		2	2	3		7
Water cooler	2	2	2	1	2	9
Bell		1	1		1	3
Bucket	2	2	2	2	2	10
Basic crockery						

7. The next year financial lay out of the school programme will be Rs.947,450. Of this of which Rs.576,050 will be contributed by Holland Foundation for Education in Pakistan (61%) and Rs.371,400 was contributed by Binte Malakand (39%). The budget is roughly 40% higher than 2009. The reasons are as follows (see the difference from 2009):
- a. The salaries of teachers were raised by 20% in October 2009.
 - b. 3 schools are shifting to other buildings, which are slightly more expensive
 - c. The books in 2009 could be obtained free, which we also expect in 2010, yet the budget has been planned for security reason.
 - d. The uniforms have been planned this year – these were last provided some 3 years ago. This is a high demand from teachers as well as children and parents. We understand that these will also add to enhancing motivation and self esteem of children and parents. Again, we are trying best to obtain uniforms either for free through donations and/or on subsidized costs.
 - e. Some of the basic assets have been planned for better quality of life in schools.

The financial projection 2010 is given in the following table:

Table 9: Budget projections for the Year 2010 - BinteMalakand Welfare Organization

S.No	Activity	Units	Contribution from Holland	Contribution from Binte	Total	Remarks
1	Teacher Salaries	11 teachers	267000	0	0	
2	School building rents (5 places)	PKR1000+2500+2500+1000+1000	96000	0	96000	
3	Black boards	12 boards with stands	16800	0	16800	Wastes / lost / old
4	School utility bills	5 schools	20000	5000	25000	
5	Teacher chairs	11 charis	0	11000	11000	Chairs when a visitor comes
6	School Chairs	10 chairs	0	5000	5000	
7	Mats for children	20 good quality mats	10000	0	10000	Good quality which don't wear out
8	Office rent	1 office	0	30000	30000	
9	Office utility charges	Bills	0	12000	12000	
10	Transportation for schools	30 visits to schools in 2010	30000	30000	60000	Monitoring, follow up
11	Staff Bint office	4 persons	0	200000	200000	
12	Children cloths	257 sets	77100	25700	102800	Essentially needed, not provided in 2009
13	School stationary	10 registers	800	0	800	Registers
14	School books	457 sets	31450	20000	51450	Hope to get free, budget planned for security reason
15	Fans	8 electric ceiling fans	11900	1700	13600	
16	Office Stationary	Misc items	0	3000	3000	
17	School shifting charges	3 schools to shift, one new	3000	2000	5000	3 schools to shift, 1 new
18	Water cooler for school	9	3600	0	3600	
19	Basic crockery	5 sets	1000	1000	2000	
20	Internet charges	12 months	0	5000	5000	Proper system needed
21	School bells	3	600	0	600	
22	Bucket / wash tub	9	1800	0	1800	To fetch water, wash wooden slates
23	Gifts for Children (results day)	Misc items + cash awards	0	15000	15000	Results day twice a year
24	Unforeseen/ Misc		5000	5000	10000	
Grand Total			576050	371400	947450	

Cash in Hand as of 31st December 2009

88079

Total Budget 2010

947450

Contribution from Binte-Malakand during 2010

371400

Contribution from Holland during 2010

576050

Total cash required from Holland in 2010

487971 € 4,800