

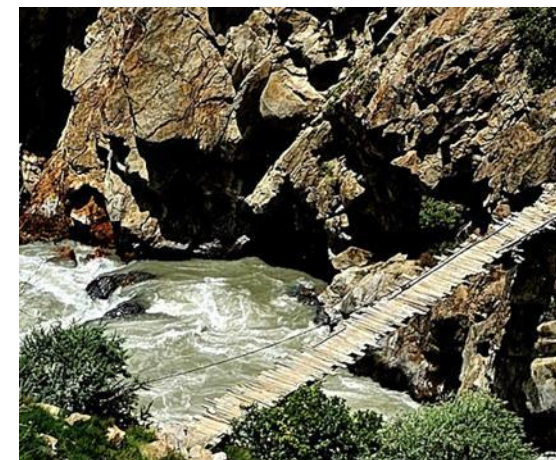


Expect the unexpected

Just one hours flying time from Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, is Gilgit Baltistan . It shares borders with China, India and Afghanistan. A prominent town is Skardu.



Beautiful majestic and challenging



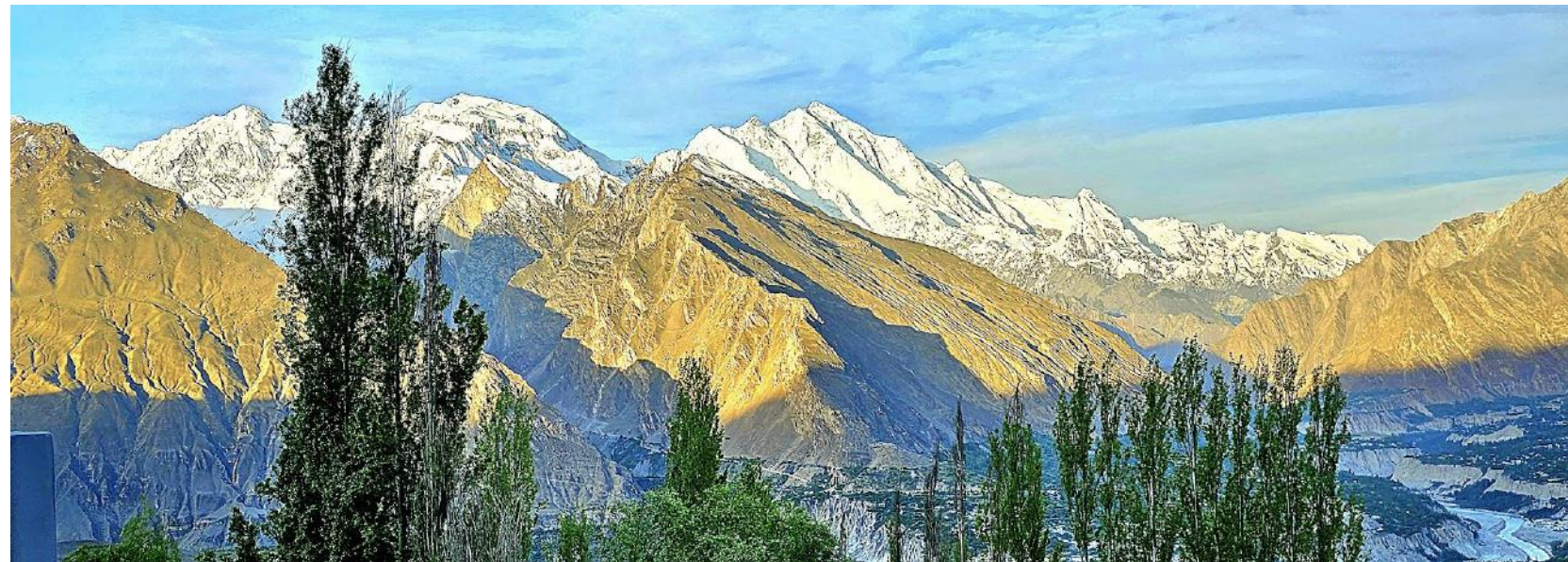


Four mountain ranges meet here, the Karakoram, Pamir, Himalaya, and the Hindu Kush.

The region has some of the world's highest mountains, including five peaks over 8,000 meters, and many over 7,000, together with the largest glaciers outside the polar region.

Gilgit-Baltistan is an autonomous region separate from Pakistan itself, and its inhabitants have never had any representation in Pakistan's parliament.

The UN recognizes the area, with Kashmir, as disputed territory with Pakistan India and China



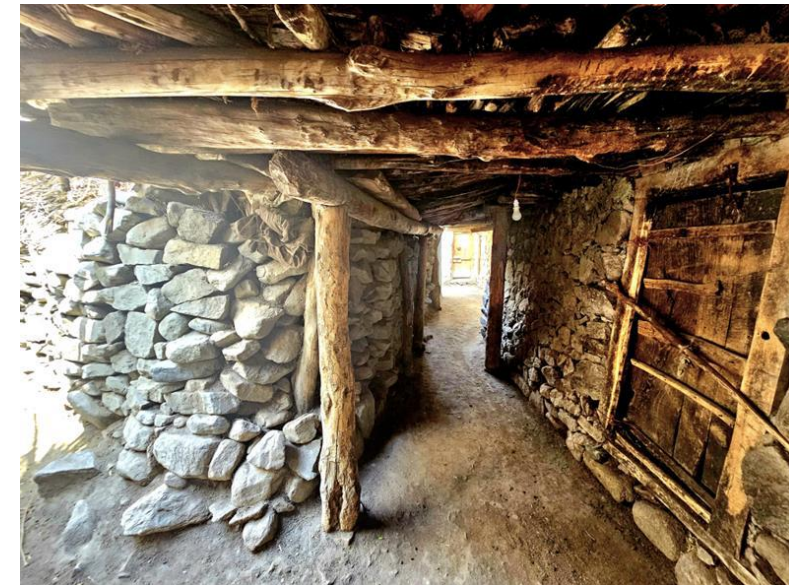


The plan was a 14 day tour.
I ended up staying 8 weeks!

In this remote village met a lad who was deaf and unable to speak. His parents told me there was a special school in Skardu but they were unable to afford daily transport.

Back in Skardu I visited

Narjis Khartoon Hearing Impairment School.



Narjis Khartoon Hearing Impairment School



“My husband and I are blessed with four children. Two of our daughters have a hearing impairment.

We live in a remote area in Northern Pakistan which struggles to help people with disabilities. There is no government support.

In 2013 we decided to set up our own school for hearing impaired students. We have 70 + students. 45 live in town, the others stay at our hostel.

In December 2022 our long term major donor died. Support stopped. Since then the school has struggled financially. Rather than close we struggled on “

Aniqa Bano



“Unable to afford the rent we moved to a very run down abandoned school”.

The challenge was accepted by Learn for Life to renovate the property and support the school “



Day 1

Day 30





Town electricity in Skardu is available just 2 hours a day.
Cause for celebration when solar power installed for the classrooms !



Long hours to meet the "30 day to completion" challenge



25 of the students live in the hostel. They were sleeping on earthenware floors : now they sleep on mattresses and bunks



A traditional kitchen. The ceiling of branches and mud.





Enjoying myself.

Back to 50 years ago with Reliable Home Improvements in Melbourne!

Traditional construction.
Dry rock foundation and
handmade mud and straw blocks.





Not everything goes to plan!
Water tank stand collapses
12 hours after installation.



The internal refurbishment included painting, 16 laptops and floor coverings to all classrooms.



For all grades there is a very high teacher to student ratio.



Learn For Life (UK) will pay all salaries for the teachers and support staff, and provide all food for the residents of the hostel.

Existing and new local donations and parent contributions will close the gap. The school has accepted the need to increase local donations. We look forward to a long friendship.



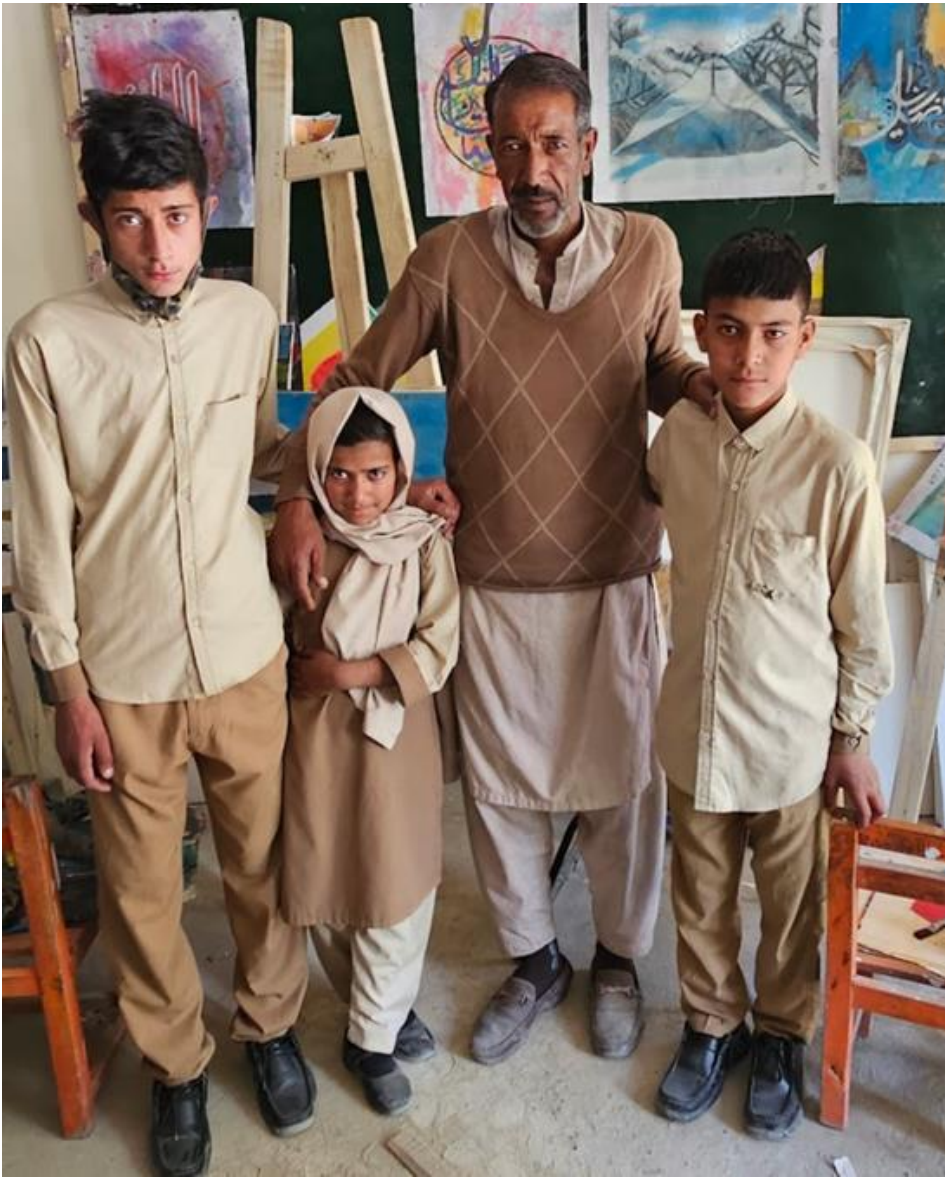
AJ and students receive the first food delivery.

NARGIS KHATOON HEARING IMPAIRED SCHOOL SKARDU

MENU

Day	Breakfast	Lunch	Snacks	Dinner	
Monday	Paratha Omlete+Tea	Daal Chawal	Pizza	Vegetable Rice	Fruit
Tuesday	Halwa-Puri+Tea	Daal Roti	Burger	Beef Biryani	
Wednesday	Kulcha+Tea	Alu Mutter	Fruit Chart	Koofta Chawal	
Thursday	Paratha+Tea	Palak Paneer	Chana Chart	Daal Chana Chawal	Fruit
Friday	Naan+Payee	Sabzi	Dahi Barray	Chicken Vegetable Mecroni	
Saturday	Paratha+Fry Egg	Daal Roti	Milk Shake	Chicken Qourma Chawal	Fruit
Sunday	Bread+Butter	Fred Rice+manchurian	Tank Drink	Reshmi Kabab + Naan	





Mehboob father of Danish, Saliha, and Muhammad Ali. His children attend the school.

What is life like with hearing loss?

There are fewer educational and job opportunities due to impaired communication.

Social withdrawal due to reduced access to services and difficulties communicating with others.

Often emotional problems caused by a drop in self-esteem and confidence.



“The deaf community relies so much on eye contact, expression and body language. It's such a huge part of who we are.”

Aira and Madiha
grade1

“We have our own culture, our own community. A lot of people don't realize that. They just assume that deaf people are very unfortunate, very disabled, but no.”



Ikram, Ibrahim, Faisal and Yasir Year 10.



“Deaf people can do anything except hear.”

Karamat and Askari
grade 1



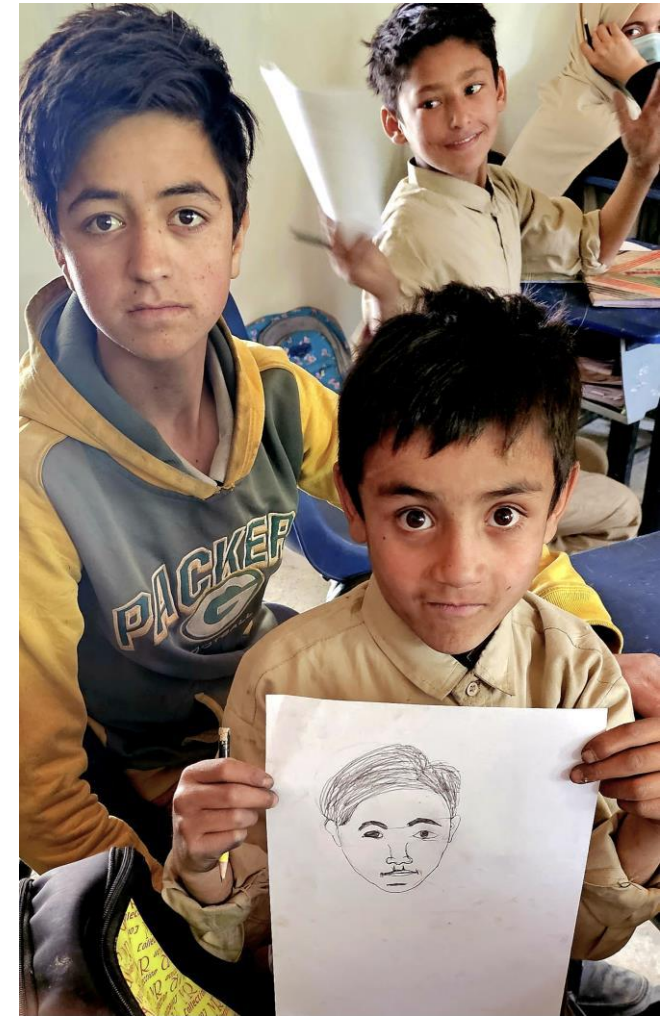
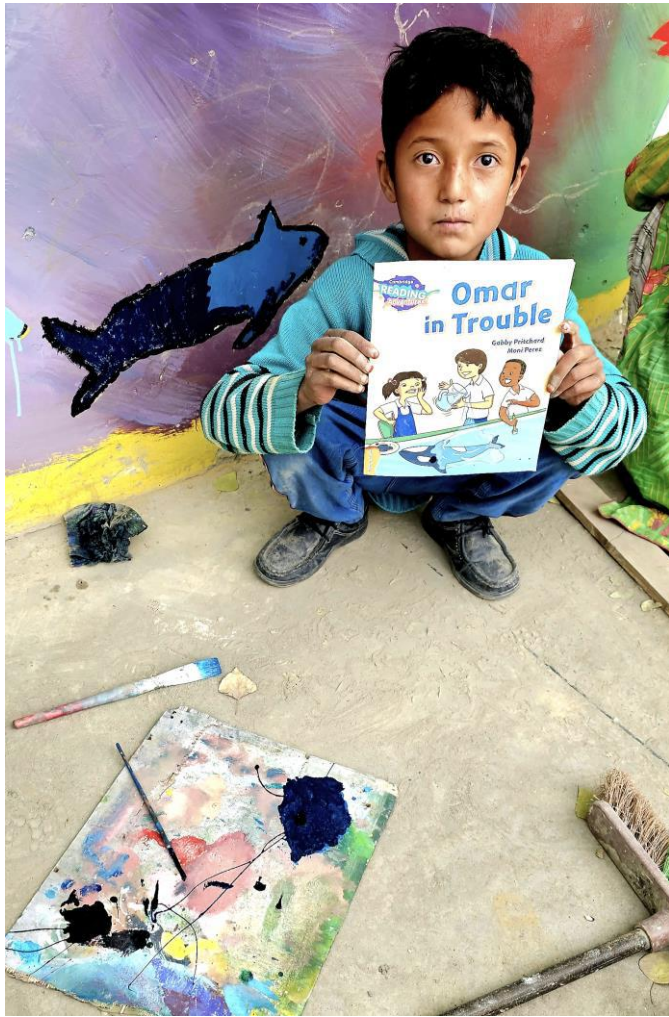
“Blindness separates from things but deafness separates from people.”

Muhammad Rozi and Alam. Brothers. Students at the school.



“I live my life like everyone else; everyone has their own obstacles. Mine is deafness.”

Saif and Faisal. Grade 10



“Deaf people are extremely visually orientated. They rely heavily on their eyes, making them extremely observant and perceptive”.





Kate Lock is the chairperson and **Mamun Choudhry** one of four trustees. **Syed Lijlal, "AJ,"** is the coordinator with the school in Skardu.

Kate is a senior manager with the NHS in Devon. Kate has visited Bangladesh and Myanmar numerous times as a volunteer. Her teaching in medical management has been invaluable.

Mamun, physiotherapist, has worked with Walk for Life in Bangladesh for 12 years. He now lives in Toronto. He has been a Ponseti trainer in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uganda and the Philippines.

Mamun has been a trustee of the UK based Global Clubfoot Initiative since 2017.

Syed is a university student in Skardu, studying education. He maintains day to day contact with the school and reports to Kate and Mamun.