

Women in Struggle in Pakistan (WIS) by Theresa Wolfwood

(7 photos follow the text)

WIS is a village-based grassroots group in eastern Pakistan near Faisalabad. Its purpose is to help women in all aspects of their lives from health to income -generating projects. WIS also operates a school for village children who have to work part-time and whose family cannot afford the expenses of a government school.

Since 1995 BCF has sent financial contributions to WIS to help its work. I met the director and inspired activist, Cecilia Arseen, at the Beijing \Women's Forum and visited Pakistan to see her and WIS projects in 2005.

Over the years BBCF has helped fund goats, fruit trees, sewing equipment and supplies for needy women.

BBCF director, Elizabeth Mayne, during her life time generously donates funds to help construct a building. It is used as a school in the day and later in the day as a women's centre. BBCF has send relief ais when there has been flooding in that region. This time massive floods were in another region of Pakistan; governments and large agencies have responded with aid.

This time although WIS regain did not flood, the whole country was affected with vital shortages and steep price increases of basic necessities.

BBCF send a modest contribution which was used in one part to provide protein and food to school children and the rest to provide menstrual materials – reusable pads and underpants for women. 70 kits were made up by WIS and distributed locally.

A small amount of money goes a long way there.

See photos of women making and giving out the menstrual kits and children receiving food supplements.

Donations are always welcome and BBCF sends total given to WIS. It may not change the world but it helps today and is urgently needed. TW



