

# **Negotiating Life in Haji Ghulam Zakarya Goth**

**Summary Report (Programmatic Only)**  
January 2025 to December 2025

Saturday, January 17, 2026

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

It is with immense pride and sincere gratitude that we present the Fourth Progress Report of the Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF). ASF was meticulously established with a singular, transformative mission: to empower women in the Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth, located within Gadap Town, Malir District, Karachi, through comprehensive skill development and educational initiatives. This report encapsulates our robust activities, significant accomplishments, persistent challenges, and transparent financial standing, reflecting a year of strategic growth and impactful community engagement. Earlier, our inaugural year of operation has laid a strong foundation, marking substantial strides towards our foundational objectives.

## **2.0 OPERATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT**

The Amna Shamima Foundation's core philosophy revolves around fostering intergenerational knowledge exchange, creating a vital interface where the wisdom of the elderly enriches the younger generation through shared skills and experiences. Our operations are strategically situated in Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth, a vibrant yet resource-constrained settlement within Karachi's expansive urban landscape.

Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth, situated within Karachi's Gadap Town (Please see Annexure for exact location), stands as a compelling anthropological study of urban resilience, where a diverse community navigates the precarious complexities of informal settlement life. Predominantly working-class, with a modest scattering of middle-level professionals and retired military personnel, this settlement showcases a profound fusion of adaptive strategies against a backdrop of systemic infrastructural neglect.

The socio-economic fabric is distinctly gendered yet interdependent: women largely bolster household incomes through domestic labor, often enduring the health hazards of wood and cylinder cooking fuels, while men engage in various trades like gardening, carpentry, and driving. This labor division underscores an implicit cultural understanding of household sustenance in a resource-scarce environment.

Infrastructural realities paint a stark picture: 25,000 households on unleased land grapple with intermittent electricity, leading to the informal "kunda" system—a direct response to state failure that highlights local, albeit unregulated, solutions. The absence of sewerage lines forces reliance on in-house pit latrines, and the scarcity of cooking gas pushes families towards wood, a practice observed to cause respiratory issues and smoke-filled homes, particularly impacting women. Essential public amenities—a hospital, government

school, or ambulance service—are critically absent, compelling reliance on unqualified practitioners and home-based education, signifying a parallel, informal service economy.

Cultural expressions are nuanced. The pervasive sight of hijab and Naqab among women, often paired with "fashionable attire underneath," speaks to a subtle negotiation of public piety and personal style within a religiously diverse, yet predominantly conservative, milieu. Men frequently sport beards and traditional Kameez Shalwar, though modern attire is also observed, reflecting a dynamic interplay of tradition and contemporary influence. The landscape, dotted with mosques and madrasahs, reinforces a strong spiritual anchor, further complemented by charity initiatives like the Bahria Dastarkhawan.

Economically, the Goth is a vibrant, if sometimes unsettling, nexus. Commercial ventures, from established banks like Askari and Al-Habib to a superstore, coexist with a distinct ethnic division of labor: Sindhi Hindus dominate grocery stores, Punjabis run milk shops, and Pashtuns control vegetable and fruit businesses. This informal economic ecosystem, however, has a grim shadow: the thriving "kabaria" business, fueled by addiction, where stolen goods from homes and shops circulate, revealing a dark underbelly of societal vulnerability.

Living under high-tension power lines on unleased land, with precarious incomes, the residents of Zakarya Goth embody a tenacious spirit of adaptation. This community is a powerful testament to human ingenuity in carving out lives amidst infrastructural voids and socio-economic pressures, where informal networks and resilient cultural practices bridge the gaps left by formal systems

### **3.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

This reporting period has been marked by substantial progress across our program areas:

#### **3.1 Diverse Course Offerings**

The Foundation successfully launched and sustained a range of skill-development courses, including basic computer course, sewing, embroidery, mehndi, self-grooming, arts & crafts, and adult literacy. These programs garnered enthusiastic participation from women across the settlement, leading to the graduation of students across three batches. English language course for the young girls of the community is an addition in the year 2025

### 3.2 Mother and Child Health Center

The Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF) has achieved a landmark milestone by entering into a strategic partnership with the internationally recognized HANDS Welfare Foundation. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) serves as a powerful validation of ASF's deep-rooted community influence in Zakarya Goth, marking our successful expansion from vocational training and education into life-saving healthcare. By integrating HANDS' four decades of public health expertise with ASF's trusted community presence, we are establishing a sophisticated, digital-health-supported clinic for Mother and Child. This accomplishment solidifies ASF's standing as a comprehensive welfare leader, ensuring marginalized families finally have access to affordable maternal health and specialist services right at their doorstep. Consequentially, a Mother and Child Health Center is established in premises of Amna Shamima Foundation, which operates 5 days a week. Though the initial turnover was slow but the Center is gradually picking up the pace.

For January 2026, a medical camp is planned jointly by HANDS & ASF at the foundation's premises, for which community mobilization started in December with the help of 5 volunteers of ASF, validating the need for highly subsidized primary health care services in Zakarya Goth. Both ASF and HANDS plan to organize similar camps on a regular basis to ensure the community keeps benefitting from the quality services at highly affordable costs.

### 3.3 Women Empowerment

We are proud to report the empowerment of more than 250 women through our meticulously designed courses, workshops and awareness-raising sessions. These women have not only acquired invaluable skills but a couple have also successfully established home-based businesses, directly enhancing their families' economic well-being and fostering greater financial independence.

S. No	Name of the Course/Activity	Number of Students
<b>A. Courses</b>		
1	Computer Literacy	33
2	Fabric Art	36
3	Personal Grooming	18
4	Adult Literacy (Taleem-e-Balighan)	09
5	Arts and Craft	18

7	English Language Workshops	13
<b>B. Sessions</b>		
1	Women and Micro-enterprise by First Women Bank	29
2	First Aid workshop by Rah-e-Amal	18
3	Mental Health and Well Being awareness session by Rah-e-Amal	23
4	Awareness Raising Session by HANDS on PHC (Primary Health Care)	56
5	Environmental Awareness and climate friendly housing by Urban Resource Centre and The Tree Man organization	30
6	Teachers' Training by Teachers' Resource Centre (TRC)	10

### 3.4 Pivotal Computer Literacy Program

The **Akhtar Hameed Khan Computer Lab (AHKCL)** stands as a cornerstone of the Amna Shamima Foundation's mission to bridge the digital divide in underserved areas. Named in honor of the legendary social scientist and pioneer of community development, Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan, the lab embodies the spirit of self-reliance and modern empowerment. This state-of-the-art facility was officially inaugurated on June 03, 2024, and was made possible through the philanthropic vision and generous contributions of our dedicated friends and global benefactors. It provides a professional-grade environment where students can transition from digital literacy to technical proficiency. By providing access to tools that were previously out of reach for the local community, the foundation has created a hub for innovation and cognitive growth. The curriculum is strategically designed to meet the demands of the current job market, focusing on high-utility software and desktop publishing skills:

- **MS Office Suite:** Training students in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint to ensure they are prepared for administrative and corporate roles.
- **Inpage (Urdu Desktop Publishing):** A critical skill for the local landscape, allowing students to engage in professional Urdu composing, journalism, and local business documentation.
- **Page-Making and Layout Design:** Equipping learners with the ability to design brochures, newsletters, and digital content, fostering a pathway toward freelance graphic design and publishing careers.

Following its successful launch in 2024, the AHKCL has maintained exceptional momentum throughout the 2025 academic year. The program has moved beyond foundational training to become a sustainable engine for digital empowerment. The lab's continued success in 2025 is measured not just by the number of hours logged, but by the tangible transformation of its students. By integrating these technical skills into their repertoire, graduates are now better positioned to secure employment, manage small business accounts, and pursue higher education with confidence. The foundation remains committed to evolving this facility to meet the emerging technological needs of the 21st century.

### **3.5 Fabric Art**

The Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF) The year 2025 marked a significant milestone for the program, culminating in a vibrant graduation ceremony where 36 dedicated students successfully completed their journey from novices to skilled artisans. The curriculum of the Fabric Art course is meticulously designed to bridge the gap between traditional craft and modern design. Over the months, students are immersed in the fundamentals of sewing, cutting, and stitching, utilizing a fleet of high-quality sewing machines and guided by experienced mentors. The program goes beyond mere technicality; it explores the "art" of fabric, teaching students how to transform raw textiles into functional garments and intricate decorative items. From mastering basic hems to executing complex tailoring and hand embroidery, the graduates of 2025 have demonstrated an exceptional ability to bring creative visions to life. The graduation of these 36 students represents more than just the completion of a vocational course; it signifies a step toward financial independence and social empowerment. Many of these women come from backgrounds where formal education and professional spaces are limited. By equipping them with a tangible trade, ASF has enabled them to contribute to their household incomes, often for the first time. The 2025 batch was particularly noted for their collaborative spirit, often working together to create collections showcased at community stalls and pre-winter sales.

### **3.6 Personal Grooming and Mehndi Art**

In 2025, the foundation reached a significant milestone in this mission as 18 ambitious students successfully graduated from the Personal Grooming and Mehndi Application techniques Course. While the cohort was smaller and more specialized than other programs, the impact on these women's lives has been profound, equipping them with the tools to excel in the burgeoning beauty and service industries. The curriculum of the Personal Grooming Course at ASF is designed to be both comprehensive and practical. It moves beyond the

surface level of "beauty" to focus on the science of skincare, the artistry of hair styling, and the technical precision required for professional makeup and mehndi designs application. Under the guidance of expert instructors in Haji Gulam Zakariya Goth, the students spent the year mastering various modules, designs, including hygiene protocols, skin analysis, and bridal aesthetics. A key component of the 2025 session was the emphasis on "Professional Etiquette," teaching the 18 graduates how to communicate effectively with clients and manage the business side of a salon or home-based service.

### **3.7 Literacy Enhancement**

At the Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF), we believe that literacy is the fundamental key to unlocking a woman's true potential. While vocational skills offer a path to employment, the Adult Literacy Program offers a path to dignity and informed citizenship. The year 2025 was a landmark for this initiative, as 09 dedicated students successfully graduated, marking a victory over the barriers of their past and a bright start for their futures. In the heart of Haji Gulam Zakariya Goth, many women have historically been sidelined from formal education. ASF's literacy classes are designed to bridge this gap with a curriculum focused on functional literacy. This means teaching more than just alphabets; it involves equipping these 09 women with the skills to navigate the modern world. Over the course of the year, they mastered Urdu reading and writing, basic English recognition, and essential arithmetic. For these graduates, the ability to read a bus sign, understand a doctor's prescription, or help their children with primary school homework has transformed their daily lives from a series of hurdles into a sequence of opportunities. The graduation of this small but mighty cohort of 09 students represents a profound shift in the community's social fabric. Literacy is often the "confidence catalyst"—once these women realized they could decode the world around them, their self-esteem soared. Many of this year's graduates have already shown interest in joining the foundation's more technical courses, such as Fabric Art, now that they possess the literacy skills required to follow complex patterns and keep business records

### **3.8 Arts and Craft**

The Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF) has long been a sanctuary for creativity and self-expression in Zakarya Goth. In 2025, the foundation's Arts and Craft Course achieved a beautiful milestone as 18 talented students successfully completed their training. This program is designed to unlock the innate creativity of women in the community, proving that art is not just a hobby but a powerful tool for economic resilience and mental well-being. The curriculum for the 2025 session was diverse and vibrant, moving beyond simple hobbies to

professional-grade craftsmanship. Students explored various mediums, including traditional pottery painting, paper mache, candle making, and the creation of intricate home décor items. A significant focus was placed on sustainable art, where the 18 graduates learned to repurpose discarded materials—such as glass, fabric scraps, and plastic—into high-value decorative products. This eco-friendly approach not only taught them resourcefulness but also reduced the cost of production, making their eventual business ventures more viable. The graduation of these 18 artisans signifies the birth of a new creative economy within Haji Gulam Zakariya Goth. Throughout the year, these women transformed from hesitant beginners into confident creators capable of designing products that reflect both their cultural heritage and modern aesthetic trends. By the time they reached their graduation in late 2025, many had already developed "signature styles," producing items that were successfully showcased and sold at local exhibitions. This income allows them to support their families while working from the safety and comfort of their homes. Beyond the financial gains, the Arts and Craft course provided these 18 women with a vital therapeutic outlet. The collaborative environment of the ASF classroom allowed them to share stories and build a sisterhood of support. As they step out as certified graduates, they carry the skills to turn imagination into reality, contributing to the beauty and prosperity of their community.

### **3.9 English Language**

The English Language Workshops at the Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF) serve as a vital bridge between the local community of Haji Gulam Zakariya Goth and the globalized world. In 2025, this program reached a triumphant milestone as 13 determined students successfully continued their journey toward linguistic proficiency. For these women, learning English was not merely about mastering a new vocabulary; it was about gaining the "key" to modern information, professional growth, and international connection. The success of the 2025 batch is a testament to an extraordinary story of dedication. The workshops are primarily led by a highly experienced and passionate educator who travels from the opposite end of the city on weekly basis to reach the foundation. This long and often grueling commute across Karachi is fueled by a singular mission: to provide high-quality education to those who need it most. This teacher brought not only academic expertise but also a global perspective, inspiring the 13 students to look beyond their immediate surroundings and envision themselves as part of a larger, interconnected world. Besides the lead teacher, the senior manager of ASF also conducts language workshops as Co-teacher, once a week. The curriculum is designed to be immersive and practical, focusing on conversational fluency, reading comprehension, and basic professional writing. The 13 participants practice dialogues, building their confidence through public



speaking exercises, and learning to navigate digital spaces in English. The objective is to equip them in assisting their children with schoolwork, pursue administrative roles, or even manage their own small businesses with an expanded reach. For ASF, this marks the beginning of a new chapter where language is no longer a barrier but a tool for empowerment. They stand as a proud example of how dedicated mentorship combined with student resilience can transform lives.

### **3.10 Robust Community Engagement**

The Foundation actively fostered strong ties with the local community, orchestrating impactful awareness campaigns to promote our courses and underscore the transformative power of female education and empowerment. Following activities are conducted in the Reporting period for robust community engagement

### **3.11 Strategic Data Management**

A comprehensive database of graduating students has been meticulously compiled. This invaluable resource will facilitate future follow-ups, enable precise skill identification, and support ongoing impact assessment.

### **3.12 Impactful Awareness Sessions**

Collaborating with esteemed organizations such as the Teachers' Resource Center (TRC), Urban Resource Centre, HANDS, First women bank, Rah-e-Amal, The Tree Man and other well reputed organizations, the Foundation conducted five various targeted awareness sessions for both students and community women (as mentioned in Table, Section 3.3). These sessions, engaging more than 100 participants, covered vital topics such as domestic health and hygiene, environment, entrepreneurship fostering positive social interaction with the elderly, community mobilization through volunteerism for environmental improvement, and addressing early childhood needs, positively impacting households and the area.

#### ***Teachers' Training Program:***

To ensure the highest quality of instruction and pedagogical excellence across all our courses, ASF, with the support of Teachers' Resource Centre (TRC), organized a targeted teachers' training program. This vital initiative focused on refining instructional methodologies, curriculum delivery, and classroom management techniques, directly contributing to improved learning outcomes and sustained educational impact for our students.

### ***Home Budgeting Workshops***

Recognizing the critical importance of financial literacy for household stability, ASF conducted practical and engaging workshops on home budget making. These sessions empowered women with essential skills in managing household finances, promoting greater economic stability, informed decision-making, and self-reliance within their families.

### ***Block Printing Workshop***

A series of specialized block printing workshops successfully engaged 15 women, providing them with valuable creative design skills rooted in traditional craftsmanship. This initiative not only fostered artistic expression but also opened potential pathways for income generation through the creation of unique, handcrafted textile products, thus contributing to their economic independence.

### ***Child Care Spaces***

To facilitate seamless participation of mothers in workforce, ASF in partnership with TRC, provided crucial training and orientation on creating and managing safe child care spaces. This support emphasized a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment for children, simultaneously empowering mothers to pursue personal development and acquire new skills without the barrier of childcare constraints.

### ***Climate Change Awareness Session***

Recognizing the growing urgency of environmental challenges, ASF organized a critical climate change awareness session for 30 participants with support of Urban Resource Centre and the Tree Man initiative. This aimed to educate community members on environmental sustainability, fostering a deeper understanding of climate impacts and promoting proactive approaches for plantation and to build community resilience against environmental shifts.

## **4.0 OTHER ENGAGEMENTS WITH/FOR COMMUNITY**

### **4.1 Thrift Sales**

To promote resourcefulness, accessibility, and community engagement, ASF successfully organized a series of thrift sales. These events not only served as a valuable community service by providing affordable goods but also subtly encouraged sustainable consumption practices and fostered internal community exchange.

## **4.2 Behbud Mela**

In a significant collaborative endeavor, ASF participated in "Behbud Mela." This partnership provided a valuable platform for ASF-trained women to showcase and sell their handcrafted products to a wider audience, directly linking their acquired skills with market opportunities and contributing to their economic upliftment and self-sufficiency.

## **4.3 Certificate Distribution Ceremony**

A highlight of the reporting period was the certificate distribution ceremony, held to formally honor the dedication, hard work, and achievements of our graduating students. This event not only provided well-deserved recognition for their accomplishments but also served as a powerful motivator for both graduates and prospective students, reinforcing the tangible value of their efforts and inspiring future participation in our transformative programs.

## **5.0 CHALLENGES FACED; INVESTING IN RESILIENCE: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TO EMPOWER KARACHI'S WOMEN**

The Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF) stands as a beacon of hope in Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth, Karachi, diligently working to empower women through vital skill development and educational programs. While our progress in fostering literacy, vocational skills, and digital inclusion (through our new computer lab) has been significant, the journey toward sustainable transformation is fraught with complex challenges that demand immediate attention and strategic partnerships. Overcoming these hurdles is paramount to scaling our impact and securing a brighter future for the resilient women we serve.

### **5.1 Navigating the Path to Financial Independence**

Our most pressing challenge is achieving long-term financial sustainability. Currently, ASF operates without a robust income-generating model, frequently relying on out-of-pocket contributions to cover essential operational costs and staff salaries. This precarious funding structure limits our ability to plan strategically, invest in necessary infrastructure, and expand our reach to more deserving women. A secure financial foundation is not merely about survival; it is about building a scalable and enduring platform for empowerment.

### **5.2 Addressing Systemic Barriers to Education and Empowerment**

Despite the enthusiasm for our programs, we face heartbreaking participant dropouts. Early marriages, frequent family relocations, and overwhelming domestic responsibilities disproportionately impact young women, often forcing them to abandon their learning journeys. Furthermore, deeply entrenched gender discrimination, particularly against older women in adult literacy programs, and the economic pressures that push young girls into domestic labor in more affluent neighborhoods, actively undermine our efforts. These are not just individual setbacks; they are systemic societal barriers that diminish human potential and perpetuate cycles of poverty.

### **5.3 Building Local Capacity and Operational Strength**

Identifying and retaining qualified personnel from within the community for teaching roles or day-to-day management proves exceptionally difficult due to limited educational qualifications and professional capacities among local women. This directly impacts our ability to foster true community ownership and prepare for a future where ASF can be led and sustained by those it serves. Furthermore, a crucial operational bottleneck persists: the lack of an official bank account. Despite our diligent efforts, delays from regulatory bodies prevent us from formalizing our financial transactions, leading to lost funding opportunities and forcing us into less ideal practices for managing donations. This significantly hampers transparency and our ability to attract larger institutional support.

### **5.4 Fostering Community Ownership and Comprehensive Well-being**

To truly embed our work within the community and ensure its long-term viability, we recognize the urgent need to establish a community-based advisory group. This group would foster a deeper sense of ownership, guide our initiatives, and lay the groundwork for eventual community-led management. Beyond skills, the scarcity of quality health services in Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth represents a dire, unaddressed need. While not our primary mandate, our ability to integrate health initiatives or facilitate access to vital services is severely constrained by current resources.

### **5.5 Bridging Distance and Creating Economic Pathways**

The distance and commutation challenges often deter external organizations, private groups, and individuals from engaging with us on a voluntary or collaborative basis. This isolation limits our access to critical expertise, resources, and networking opportunities. Crucially, a significant gap remains in effectively linking our newly skilled women with sustainable income opportunities, whether through market access for their

home-based products or facilitating remote online work. Moreover, we have untapped potential in optimizing and utilizing our existing physical space to generate monthly income, which could partially offset operational costs and enhance our self-sufficiency.

## **5.6 A Call to Partnership**

The challenges faced by the Amna Shamima Foundation are substantial, but they are not insurmountable. They are, in fact, an urgent call to action. By addressing financial sustainability, strengthening community engagement, building local capacities, and creating direct pathways to economic independence, we can amplify our impact exponentially. We invite forward-thinking donors and partners to join us in transforming these obstacles into opportunities, ensuring that the women of Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth can realize their full potential and contribute vibrantly to Karachi's future. Your investment in ASF is an investment in human dignity, economic empowerment, and sustainable community development.

## **6.0 FUTURE OUTLOOK**

In the forthcoming year, the Amna Shamima Foundation is committed to an ambitious trajectory of expansion and deeper impact:

### **6.1 Expanded Course Offerings**

We aim to diversify our vocational and technical training programs, introducing courses in entrepreneurship, social and infrastructure mapping, and trainings in marketing, utilization of opportunities in digital sector, mental health and social well-being etc, broadening the scope of skill development.

### **6.2 Enhanced Community Engagement**

We will intensify our community engagement and awareness campaigns to further encourage and solidify female participation across all initiatives.

### **6.3 Diversified Funding**

A key strategic imperative is to actively explore and secure additional funding sources, enabling us to significantly augment our budget and extend our transformative reach to even more women.

### **6.4 Holistic Health Initiatives**

With foreseen support from like-minded health professionals and organizations, we are committed to launching wide-ranging health initiatives specifically tailored to address the well-being of women, elderly and children in the community.

## **7.0 FOSTERING WELL-BEING: COMMITMENT TO STAFF CARE**

At the Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF), we recognize that the dedication and well-being of our staff are paramount to achieving our transformative mission in Haji Ghulam Zakarya Goth. During this reporting period, thanks to the invaluable support of our friends and benefactors, ASF implemented several impactful staff care initiatives that underscore our commitment to those who tirelessly drive our programs. These efforts go beyond mere remuneration, aiming to directly address staff needs, reduce personal burdens, and foster a supportive working environment. A significant stride in staff welfare was the provision of solar panels and associated accessories, loans and a constant look out for medical insurance. In a community grappling with intermittent power supply, this intervention directly alleviated a major infrastructural challenge for our staff members' households, ensuring stable electricity and improving their quality of life. Furthermore, understanding the financial pressures faced by many, ASF generously covered the education costs for the children of a couple of staff members. This direct investment in their families' future not only eased financial strain but also demonstrated our profound appreciation for their commitment, reinforcing their ability to provide for their loved ones. In a spirit of camaraderie and appreciation, gifts were distributed on religious and other significant occasions. These gestures, though seemingly small, played a crucial role in boosting staff morale, fostering a sense of belonging, and acknowledging their invaluable contributions beyond their daily tasks. Lastly, aligning with our broader community development and environmental awareness goals, trees were provided free of cost for plantation to the staff. This initiative not only offered a tangible asset to their homes but also encouraged environmental stewardship and created a lasting personal connection to the foundation's ethos. These comprehensive staff care efforts reflect our core philosophy: empowering our team is fundamental to empowering the community we serve, ensuring a motivated, resilient, and dedicated workforce for sustained impact.

## **8.0 A CALL TO ACTION: SUSTAINING EMPOWERMENT**

The Fourth Annual Progress Report of the Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF) stands as a testament to the transformative power of grassroots empowerment in Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth. We have witnessed remarkable achievements: women equipped with vocational skills, bolstered literacy rates, and the pivotal

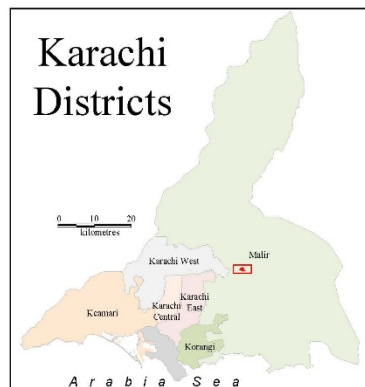
establishment of the Akhtar Hameed Khan Computer Lab. These successes underscore the profound impact strategic interventions can have in a resource-constrained environment, fostering economic independence and personal growth amidst systemic challenges. Our comprehensive efforts in community engagement, data management, and strategic networking have solidified ASF's role as a vital anchor in the community.

However, the journey towards self-sufficiency and broader impact requires continued, robust support. As detailed within this report, ASF navigates critical operational challenges, including the absence of a sustainable income model, the struggle to secure an official bank account, and the pervasive societal barriers like early marriage and gender discrimination that impede women's continuous participation. These are not merely administrative hurdles; they are fundamental obstacles that threaten to curtail our potential and limit the reach of our life-changing programs.

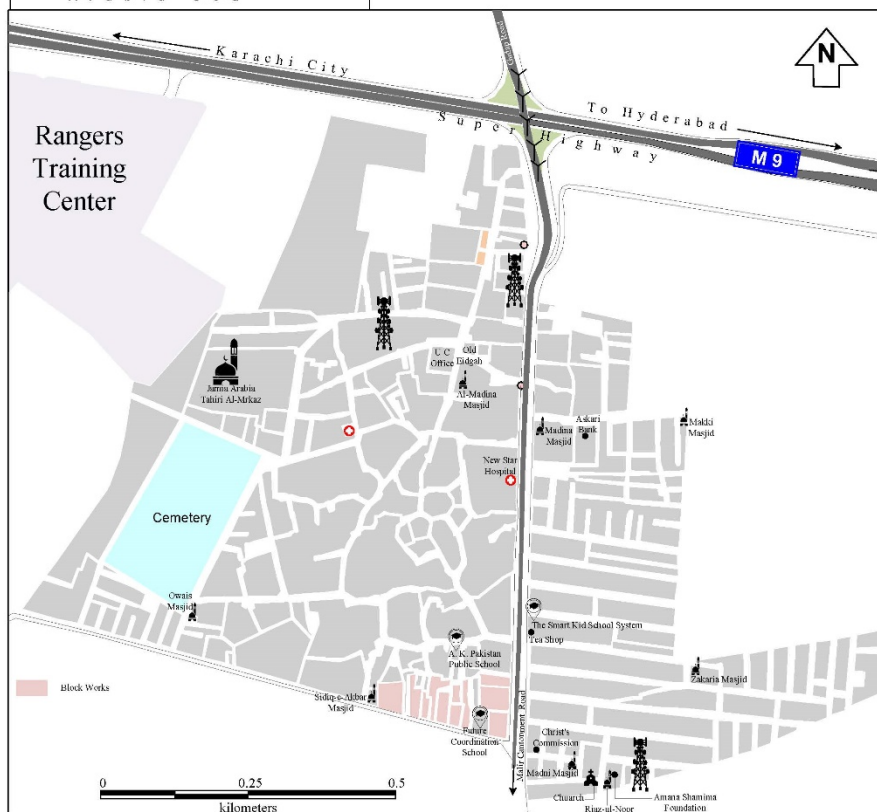
Therefore, we issue an urgent call to action to our invaluable donors and prospective partners. Your investment is not merely a donation; it is a direct contribution to human dignity, economic empowerment, and the cultivation of a resilient, self-sustaining community. Funds are critically needed to cover essential running expenses, ensuring the continuity of our established programs and the dedicated team that delivers them. Beyond operational sustenance, we seek visionary support for future projects, including the expansion of advanced vocational training, vital health initiatives for women, and the crucial establishment of a community-based advisory group to foster long-term ownership. By addressing these challenges collectively, we can amplify our impact exponentially, turning obstacles into opportunities and ensuring that the women of Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth continue to thrive, contributing vibrantly to Karachi's future. Join us in forging a path towards lasting change and equitable opportunity.

## **9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our team, the invaluable donors, dedicated volunteers, inspiring instructors, and the resilient community of Karachi for their unwavering support and profound commitment to the mission of the Amna Shamima Foundation. Our initial years have been a journey of invaluable learning and remarkable growth, and we are genuinely excited to continue our vital work of empowering women in Haji Ghulam Zakariya Goth. We firmly believe that, by working collaboratively, we can collectively forge positive change and uplift the lives of countless women in the community.



# Zakaria Goth





## PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

