



**FOCUS**  
EDUCATIONAL,  
SOCIAL & SPIRITUAL

**LOCATION**  
GUJRANWALA, PAKISTAN

**LEADER**  
ASIA ARSHAD

**OUR MINIMUM ANNUAL TARGET**  
£4150

Partnering with  
Starfish Asia  
[www.starfishasia.com](http://www.starfishasia.com)

This new school is run in Asia's home. Less than 10% of the population in this poor community are literate and unemployment is very high. Most of the people are labourers or sweepers.

The school has started with 57 children and is effectively run on the open roof of Asia's house. There is a real demand from other families for their children to have access to the school but at the present time facilities do not permit this. It is hoped, however, that progress in this area will be made in due course.

Although the majority of the children are in the three pre-school classes, the rest of the children are being taught from primary 1 through to primary 7.

The challenges detailed above seem insurmountable in terms of being able to carry out an effective teaching programme, but they are not unusual in Pakistan and the hope is that the situation will develop in the future to provide reasonable facilities for the emerging generation to be given an opportunity their parents have not had.

Asia Arshad is the head teacher. For a year or two Asia helped to have children from her village transported to another village where there was a Christian school but the cost of transport and the time involved in this daily challenge made the initiative both expensive and stressful and so she has taken the step of fulfilling her vision of offering education to these children by establishing a school where she lives.

Starfish Asia, with whom we partner in several school projects in Pakistan, asked Shared Hope to link with them in this initiative and we have agreed to do this. There are 300 Christian families in the area where the school is now situated but no Christian schools. In practice this means that the children of Christian families have no opportunity to go to school.

