

## Million Thanks for USAID

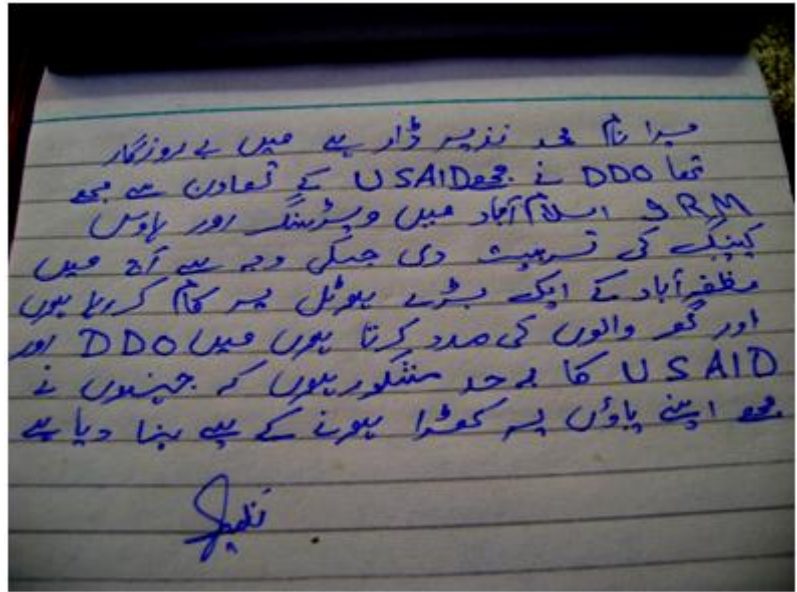
**19 years old Nazir Dar expresses his views as under:**

I belong to a very poor family of Village Ashkot, District Neelum, AJK. Due to old age, my father is now unable to work and support our family of 10. Due to lack of education, I was worried that I would not get a job and will not be able to finance my brother's education.



As I did not have any skills, I worked as a daily wage laborer in my village and despite of all the hardwork, I was not able to earn much. After working for 12 hours a day, I earned only Rs. 200. This was not enough to support my family.

my financial situation was extremely tough. But one day, I came to know about Durawa Development Organization (DDO) and their Skills Development Programme for the youth of AJK. It was certainly a ray of hope for me. I visited the DDO Office and submitted my application. I was selected for an interview and ultimately



for the Waitressing and Housekeeping training. I went to Rawalpindi to attend the training at IRM-VTEC. The training was fully sponsored by USAID, including my travelling expenses.

During the training I and other trainees were attached with a guest house in Islamabad for practical hands-on experience. During my attachment, I was offered a job by Stay Inn Guest House Islamabad. I also went to Muzaffarabad where DDO had arranged interviews for us in Pearl Continental Hotel and Sangam Hotel. I was extremely lucky to get selected as a waiter at Sangam Hotel with a monthly salary of Rs. 5000 along with food & accommodation. I took up the job and joined the Hotel. In addition to the salary, I manage to earn Rs. 7000 in the form of tip. On average, my total monthly has gone up to Rs. 12000.

I feel very fortunate to have availed this opportunity. It has enabled me to support my family, bear the expenses of my brother's education and afford my mother's medicines. I am extremely grateful to USAID, DDO and IRM for their support. I cannot thank them enough.