“SFCG Pakistan’ trainings have increased my motivation to work for conflict transformation more efficiently in my district by using mediation and dialogue tools.”

Fazal Hussain is a community mobilizer struggling to restore peace in district Buner of KPK by resolving community conflicts and enhancing the quality of education. Fazal holds two Masters degrees; MBA Finance from CECOS University Peshawar and a Masters in International Relations from Swat University.

According to Fazal, the root cause of various conflicts, extremism and militancy in Buner is the lack of quality education facilities and the high unemployment rate. Youth is targeted by the Taliban by exploiting their needs and offering some incentives.

Fazal Hussain was invited to the "Youth Capacity Building on Mediation and Dialogue" training program held under SFCG's “Promoting Peace in KPK and FATA – Connecting Youth and Policymakers through Mediation and Dialogue” project. After attending SFCG's training on mediation and dialogue, Fazal employed his newly acquired skills to resolve a conflict in his community. He also created three teams of youth volunteers who were curious and keen for the promotion of peace in Buner and received the primary training by SFCG in January 2013.

Fazal shared one of his mediation experiences where he successfully provided a solution. Two families of his area had exchange marriages (brother and sister of one family were married to the brother and sister of the 2nd family). After two or three years one couple started having problems in their marital life. Finally, the husband decided to leave his wife and forced her to return to her parents’ home. When she came back to her parents’ home, her brother and family became furious and felt insulted. They started mistreating their daughter-in-law and physically assaulted her as well. The Jirga members sat together and decided to send back their daughter-in-law to her family as revenge of their daughter. Fazal was observing them and could not stop himself when he saw the children suffering because of their families’ dispute.

At this point he recalled his skills of mediation and dialogue; he talked to both families separately and engaged with some elder Jirga members in bringing the families together to the dialogue table and ultimately helped the two couples reconcile their differences. Today, both couples are living happily and their children and families are also in peace.

Fazal articulated that, “Peace will prevail in district Buner with the eradication of the root causes of conflict such as unemployment and low quality education.”

He says, “SFCG Pakistan’s trainings have increased my motivation level to work for conflict transformation more efficiently in my district by using mediation and dialogue tools.” He aims and envisions reviving peace and prosperity in Buner within the next ten years through his constant and steady efforts and hard work.