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- World Refugee Day
- Regional conference on Human trafficking
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Editorial

We are pleased to welcome you to 6th issue of our e-Newsletter.

Happy Reading!

SHARP-Pakistan' Lawyers participated in National Level training On Refugee & Human Rights Laws Organized By UNHCR

The workshop was organized on May 3-5, 2017 at Islamabad with the support of Max Planck Foundation (A German NGO) with the collaboration of UNHCR. The objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of lawyers, working 24/7 to provide legal aid and assistance to refugees living in Pakistan.

SHARP-Pakistan Lawyers from Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh and KPK provinces participated in the training workshop along with UNHCR staff.

The workshop covered the range of sessions and presentations on national and international instruments/Acts/Agreements/conventions etc pertaining to the legal frameworks of refugees and human rights recognized by Pakistan as well as all over the world. The trainers shared their expertise as well as experiences of working in different forums and countries and explained the international practices, which are adopted by various countries and international organizations.

Introduction

Society for Human Rights and Prisoners Aid (SHARP) is a Non-Profitable, Non-Political and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

It has been striving for a human rights friendly Pakistan since 1999. Vulnerable fragments of society are the primary beneficiaries of its operations including legal protection, advocacy, community services, capacity building, emergency response etc. IDPs, women, juvenile delinquents, street children, prisoners etc are main beneficiaries of its work in different thematic areas including Protection, Child Protection, Emergency Response, Advocacy, Education, Infrastructure development, health, and other rights based approaches throughout the country.



Education Screening Survey in District Attock and Rawalpindi

UNHCR conducted Education Screening Survey in district Attock and Rawalpindi in the month of April 2017. ALAC Islamabad team assisted UNHCR in conducting the survey. The Objective of Education Screening Survey (under RAHA Project) was to facilitate the Host community Schools (Private and Public) where at least more than 4 to 5 Afghans students are enrolled. Under this survey UNHCR verified the number of students registered in school (both of host and refugee community) and needs of schools (like furniture, books, construction, systems, teachers training etc). UNHCR team assured School administration to full fill their needs at their best after internal assessment of the survey under ongoing project of RAHA.

Capacity building of Police Officials at Police Training Academy Sihala Islamabad

Three Days capacity building workshop was organized by SHARP-Pakistan for police officials at Police Training College Sihala, Islamabad. Total 282 male & female police officials/ Sub Inspector (SI) from all over the country were provided training on the subject of Human Rights & Refugee Rights in Pakistan.

Mr. Mudassar Javed (Project Director) thanked all the participants for sparing time to participate in this training. Before giving brief intro about SHARP-Pakistan, he talked about



norms settings of training. After that, he gave a detailed overview about the core function of SHARP-Pakistan.

Mr. Nadeem, a full bright scholar and ex-civil judge emphasized that without having clear picture of Human rights, we cannot bring positive change in society. He stated that Human rights are those rights, which are inherited by all human beings. He further explained that we all are equally entitled to our human rights without any discrimination.

Mr. Nadeem was really enthusiastic during 3 days training workshop and all the participants enjoyed his presentation. Participants showed their interest by asking different questions.

Mr. Yasir representative from UNHCR started his session by introducing United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its mandate in Pakistan. He emphasized that there is need to understand existing laws relating to status of refugees, their rights and obligations mentioned in 1951 convention. He further mentioned that mandate of UNHCR is to provide protection to refugees and find out durable solution to their problems. He briefed that registered Afghans can stay in Pakistan till 31st December-2017, till any further direction by Government.

Concluding Remarks by Chief Guest

The honorable Chief guest Mr. Sohail Habib Tajik (Commandant Police College Sihala), thanked all the participants and discussed the objectives of the training workshop for police officials.

Vote of Thanks by Chairman SHARP-Pakistan

Chairman SHARP-Pakistan Syed Liaqat Banori extended special thanks to Commandant, Deputy Commandant and all other administration of Police College Sihala for their support and cooperation during training. He also asked all the participants for commitment of serving humanity at their best without any discrimination. He also appreciated SHARP team to conduct successful training.

Vote of Thanks by Ms. Sophia Javed

Ms. Sophia Javed representative from UNHCR also shared her views about training and on behalf of UNHCR thanked Commandant for his support and appreciated for his good administration. She also appreciated SHARP-Pakistan to organize such a successful training and spreading the message at vast level through this platform.

Distribution of Certificates

At the end participants of 3 days training workshop were awarded with certificates of participation and Honorable chairman SHARP-Pakistan Presented Shields to Mr. Sohail Habib Tajiksb.



World Refugee Day Commemoration 20th June, 2017 in Islamabad

We stand together with Refugees

The World refugee Day is marked on 20 June every year as a tribute to the courage and resilience of the millions of people uprooted as a result of ongoing conflicts, war and natural disasters globally.

UNHCR along with SHARP-Pakistan celebrated World Refugee Day on 20th June, 2017 at Pakistan National Council of Arts Islamabad to show solidarity and to tell refugees that we stand together with them in their miserable journey of life as well as to commemorate the strength,

"This not about sharing a burden. It is about sharing a global responsibility, based not only the broad idea of our common humanity but also on the very specific obligations of international law. The root problems are war and hatred, not people who flee; refugees are among the first victims of terrorism."

— UN Secretary-General, António Guterres

courage, and resilience of millions of refugees. Refugees enjoyed this colorful event with heads high in which their cultural dances and songs were performed by youth talented groups for promotion of their culture. They were very happy listening their patriotic songs which reminded them their homeland where they only want to witness love, peace and progress but no one can give any time frame for that development they are all waiting for since many years.

Representatives from UNHCR, Ambassadors, Representatives from UN agencies and a large number of Refugees also participated to mark World Refugee Day 2017.

Distribution of tents to affected Afghan Families

On 11th April 2017 Team distributed NFIs kits in 150 families in Afghan locality Saggian Lahore with collaboration of EGM NGO.

On 22nd June, 2017 Tents & NFI were distributed to Fire affected Afghan community at Sherwani Village, Tehsil Hazroo District Attock.



SHARP-Pakistan signed contract with SDC

SHARP-Pakistan entered into a contract with Swiss agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC) to execute a Project "Integrated Protection and livelihoods Assistance for Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (IPLAAR) with the goal to provide protection services for Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The Project has following three Objectives

Objective 1: Provide legal aid/assistance to Afghan refugees to help ensure their protection from harassment, extortion and illegal detention in selected refugee villages and hosting areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Objective 2: Build capacity of civil society organizations (CSO), media, lawyers and relevant government authorities on human and refugee rights, national and international obligations.

Objective 3: Promote social cohesion at community level to ensure refugees protection in the wake of any security scenario.



Regional conference on Human trafficking at Dushanbe Tajikistan

Regional Conference on Human Trafficking was held on 22nd June, 2017 at Dushanbe Tajikistan. Syed Liaqat Banori Chairman SHARP-Pakistan attended the conference as delegate from Pakistan and shared his valuable contribution on the subject. He highlighted the efforts made by SHARP-Pakistan in developing Rules on Human Trafficking Ordinance 2002.



Pakistani participants in Regional Conference on Human trafficking at Dushanbe Tajikistan

Meeting with UNHCR officials to initiate the process for National Refugee Law in Pakistan

Senior Management of SHARP-Pakistan held an advocacy meeting with Representatives from UNHCR to initiate the long awaited process for Refugee Law. Cabinet of Pakistan has already approved the matter that there is an urgent need to have policy on refugee management as Pakistan is hosting the second largest refugee population. UNHCR assured to start advocacy on Refugee Law with Government of Pakistan and other relevant stakeholders.



SHARP-Pakistan presents Souvenir to Representative from IOM Australia

SHARP-Pakistan presented souvenir to Ms. Hanna Representative from IOM Australia in recognition of her efforts made for the protection of migrants and trafficked persons. IOM appreciates the struggle of SHARP for the Human Rights Friendly Pakistan.



Counter trafficking workshop by IOM

IOM Organized One Day Workshop on Counter Trafficking on May 25, 2017 at Hotel Ramada Islamabad. Mr. Mudassar Javed Director SHARP-Pakistan attended the workshop and shared his expertise on the subject.



Consultative Workshop on Identification and Referral of Trafficked Persons in Pakistan.

One Day Consultative Workshop on Identification and Referral of Trafficked Person in Pakistan was held on 23rd May, 2017 at Hotel Marriot Islamabad. Representatives of CSOs and other relevant stakeholders participated in the consultative workshop and gave their valuable input. Mr. Mudassar Javed represented SHARP-Pakistan.



Great appreciations for commendable work

SHARP-Pakistan highly appreciates the Very meaningful step taken by Mr. Omer Saeed, DPO Vehari to set up a Women Desk at DPO Office Vehari to facilitate women victims in the district with the aim to protect the rights of this vulnerable segment of the society.



Coordination Meeting with CAR

A Coordination Meeting was held with Commissioner Afghan Refugees Punjab to discuss the arrest and detention issues related to Afghan Refugees and to seek support emphasizing the need for fostering increased interaction, cooperation and mutual understanding between SHARP-Pakistan and Commissioner Afghan Refugees Punjab for Afghan Refugee communities. Project Director (PD) of SHARP-Pakistan briefed him about SHARP-Pakistan work for afghan refugees.

PD requested to Commissioner that they could contact SHARP-Pakistan Lahore & Mianwali offices to seek any support, which could help refugees. PD also shared helpline numbers of SHARP along with annual report and Al-Qanoon magazine. Commissioner appreciated SHARP team for their continuous interventions to help and support communities and updating and sharing of their work with CAR. He ensured his future support and meeting was ended with the pledge by Director-SHARP and CAR to continue working hand in hand for the protection, peace and prosperity of vulnerable communities.



Meeting with Commissioner Afghan Refugees Punjab (Mr. Riiaz Hameed Chaudhary)

Awareness sessions & Legal Camps

SHARP KPK Chapter conducted 119 legal awareness sessions, 10 Legal Camps and 05 Focus Group Discussions in project districts in the province. The sessions were on repatriation, legal issues and others. SHARP ALAC teams consisting of lawyers and interpreters organized Legal Camps in which issues of refugees were highlighted. FGD's on gender based violence including early child marriage, domestic violence and gender discrimination were held.



Capacity Building

14 capacity building trainings were conducted with different stakeholders including police officials, lawyers, media and civil society. The main sessions were conducted on human rights, international laws, international protection, and role of UNHCR and SHARP in conducting activities to ensure protection to person of concern.



Seminar for Refugee students

One-day seminar was conducted by SHARP-KPK team for refugee students at Chitral. The seminar included open discussion on the refugee situation in the province. A large number of students and other stakeholders participated in this activity.



Ms. Mubeen Master (Sr. Protection Officer UNHCR) at World Refugee Day activity in Peshawar

Success Stories

Afghan Student gets admission in university

Badar Khan, an Afghan Refugee currently residing in Mir Pur Azad Kashmir with POR Card # ER20740925751. Badar got admission in M.Com Department at Federal Urdu University Islamabad. When he went to deposit admission fee in University admission office the staff refused to deposit his fee and informed that Afghans are not allowed to get admission in the University based on POR card. They shared that the University classes will start within 2-3 days after deposit of fee.

SHARP Islamabad team intervened and contacted Mr. Shah Je Additional Registrar of the University and discussed whole matter with him. He shared that due to the security concerns, search operation and Government of Pakistan's policy regarding Afghan Refugees in Pakistan he needs approval from concerned department of Government of Pakistan. The University administration was told that International students are eligible to apply in Pakistani Universities and they too have right to education. Their parents are registered Afghan refugees and all of them have POR cards, for any security clearance the data can be verified from NADRA. However, the university administration told that university needs NOC from concerned department of Government of Pakistan for his admission.

ALAC team visited Afghan Commissionerate (CCAR) to get NOC for his admission in Urdu University Islamabad, which issued a letter to CAD (Capital Administration and development Division) for NOC. But CAD office refused to issue NOC as they only deal with schools and colleges in ICT and advised to contact concerned officer at Ministry of education and Higher Education Commission.

The Team again met with Additional Registrar and requested to find out the solution. He extended full cooperation to SHARP team and issued a letter to CCAR for his POR card verification and certificate for his admission at University. The team requested Director of CCAR Ms. Fahmina Toufiq for issuance of certificate for his admission which was honored and she issued a letter acceptable for university administration and finally he got admission in university. Badar's future got secured with the timely interventions/efforts of SHARP team.

Afghan students go back to school at Jhelum

Access to quality education is the fundamental right of every human without any discrimination of cast, color, race and creed. Unfortunately, bias attitude by the society towards the Afghan refugees has been witnessed many a times. SHARP-Pakistan team received information from District Jhelum that administration of Govt. Elementary school Thekrian was reluctant to promote/register Afghan students (more than 15 students in different grades) to next classes and asked them to leave the school treating them as alien. The humiliating behavior of the school administration towards the Afghan students created unease among the students as well as their families as denying their right to education was meant to head them to a bleak future. SHARP-Pakistan team intervened and contacted the school

Stamp papers issued to Afghans-Ending Exploitation

Community members of Afghan community living in Jand district Attock shared in SHURA meeting (conducted on 8th-march-17) that under the policy shift of Govt. of Pakistan for Afghan refugees the Afghan refugees are not issued the Stamp paper by stamp vendors even though they are legally registered having PoR cards. This creates a hurdle to make any business activity/agreement. To resolve the issue SHARP-Pakistan team visited some stamp vendors and inquired about the issue. They shared that the orders from the concerned Assistant Commissioner (AC) restrict them to issue Stamp Papers to Afghan refugees to avoid any unfavorable circumstances under security concerns prevailing in the country. The team asked for the copy of such orders. The vendors responded that they have verbal instructions from the office.

The team visited AC Office repeatedly, held meeting with Mr. Mansoor AC, and discussed the issue highlighting the legal status of Afghan refugees and extension of PoR cards by the end of the year 2017. UNHCR/SHARP mandate was shared with AC. Furthermore, the problems faced by Afghans due to non-issuance of Stamp papers were highlighted. Mr. Mansoor shared that no such orders were issued from his office. Instead, the stamp vendors moved to exploit Afghan refugees by their own.

The AC assured to call a meeting of all stamp vendors under his jurisdiction to ensure issuance of stamp papers to all without discrimination of Afghan and non-Afghan/local.

The administration responded that a higher authority at concerned department has ordered not to enroll/register or allow Afghan students in the schools.

SHARP-Pakistan team briefed the school administration that all Afghans are registered and Govt. of Pakistan has extended their legal stay till 31st Dec-17. The administration showed a cold shoulder to the team stating that they have orders from High authorities and they are bound to obey these orders. ALAC team struggled hard to approach the concerned Punjab School Education Department at Lahore and brought the issue to their notice. The department shared that the orders were for non-registered (without POR Card) Afghans only and the same was not applicable to registered Afghans. The department referred the team to contact Executive District Officer Education (EDO) District Jhelum. The team contacted EDO Jhelum and discussed the matter. He was kind enough and immediately forwarded the case to concerned District Monitoring Officer (DMO). The DMO shared that no such orders were received by the department and he ensured to look into the matter personally. The team coordinated with the Afghans and updated them about the issue. After meeting with DMO the representative of Afghans informed that the issue has been resolved and School administration allowed all Afghan students to sit in their classes. With sincere efforts by SHARP-Pakistan, Afghan students went back to school and littered their lives with the light of education. It was all due to bias and discriminatory attitude of the local community towards the Afghan students.

Success Stories

Relocation of Afghan Refugees -93 families protected

Almost 93 Afghan families (539 individuals having PoR cards) were living in the village Noor Pur for the last 20 years. Noor Pur village comes under the jurisdiction of Police station Rango in Tehsil Hazroo, district Attock. District Attock in Punjab is considered one of the most sensitive locations in Pakistan because of the military installations, Airbase (Kamra) and its geographical location (provincial border of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). The village Nur Pur is located at a distance of around 3 km from the Kamra Airbase and falls under the prohibited area of Attock. According to the police officials, there were reports from intelligence departments of serious security threats to the Kamra Airbase therefore the area needed to be immediately cleared from the refugees (foreigners). In a meeting with the District Police Officer (DPO) Attock, it was reported that Afghans had been repeatedly asked to move to a non-prohibited area. In case of any security incident, they would not be given much time to vacate the area.

The community elders contacted SHARP-Pakistan and informed that they were in trouble as they had received eviction orders (24 hour notice) by the Police Station Rangoo. ALAC team visited the community who shared that they were planning to return to Afghanistan by the end of April 2017 however, it was not possible to leave the areas within 24 hours. ALAC team met with the Station House Officer at the Police Station Rangoo who shared that written orders had been received from the higher officials (based on intelligence report) regarding security threat therefore he had to comply with orders. The team advocated on behalf of the refugees to extend the timeline to one week.

Meanwhile representative from local politician gave a false hope to Afghan community to resolve the issue of vacation and ensured that Police would not harass them. After one week, the community members again contacted SHARP-Pakistan and informed that Police had threatened them to vacate the area immediately.

ALAC team met with the DPO Attock along with the Kuchi's Representative in Punjab, Mr. Bahudur (Afghan refugee). The DPO shared that Police had no issue with these Afghans but as orders were received from the intelligence departments therefore they had to follow the instructions. He further stated that in case of any security incident, police/LEAs would conduct search operation to vacate the area within 3-4 days. The refugee community agreed to move to an alternate place (non-prohibited) in Attock. SHARP-Pakistan team requested UNHCR to provide them tents as construction of mud houses in winter would be difficult and time taking.

Upon confirming the alternate site, UNHCR tents were provided to affected Afghan families.

Through SHARP-Pakistan's timely interventions and advocacy/liaison with Police for the protection of poor Afghan refugees, 93 families of Afghan community got shelter, protection and saved money in shape of crops.

Zakia - an inspiration for Refugees

Zakia Faizi, an Afghan refugee born in Kabul, Afghanistan moved to Pakistan along with other family members in 1992, is an ambitious lady determined to contribute positively in return of protection provided to her in Pakistan.

Passing many years full of love and protection in Pakistan, she dreamt of a new start to continue her studies and enhance her skills & knowledge. She

desired to excel in life and pay back something good to the country who provided protection to her and her family at time of need.

Sharing her feelings at time of arrival in Pakistan, she stated, "Everything was totally new for us, new world, new place, new surrounding and people. Even we were unable to understand the language, but we moved forward". Thinking of past really doesn't make much sense if there's much to look forward to". With the passage of time, we realized that "we are not here just to sleep and eat, but we have many things to do, we have to make our life". During our stay in Pakistan, we faced many issues and hurdles but we never looked back. SHARP-Pakistan provided her assistance and advice to continue her studies and be an agent of change. She and her siblings completed their education and played their positive role in the society.

As a civic citizen and good human being, she contributed a lot. Since 2013, she served as an interpreter in three different prestigious organizations including SHARP-Pakistan and always performed her best. She learnt much from her supervisors and higher management and enhanced her skills and knowledge for which she is thankful. She always put her best providing assistance and advice to poor fellows Afghan refugees. Her thirst for knowledge has changed her world from darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge. She is now a role model for the Afghan community in Pakistan. As a change maker she devised a plan to remove the label of seeker to giver.



Staff News

Farewell to Staff

- SHARP-Pakistan gave farewell to short term lawyers under UNHCR Project on their successful completion of assignment.
- SHARP-Pakistan gave farewell to Mr. Hameedullah Programme Officer at Islamabad Office, who joined UNV at Sudan. SHARP-Pakistan congratulates him on joining UNV. Many wishes for his successful career.
- SHARP-Pakistan gave farewell to Ms. Zakia Faizi Afghan Reguee in Pakistan worked as Interpreter at SHARP-Pakistan Islamabad Office on her Voluntary Repatriation to her country of Origin Afghanistan.

Welcome to Staff

- Mr. Adnan Chohan joined Islamabad office as Programme Officer under LAP project on 28th May 2017. SHARP-Pakistan welcomes him on board.

Key Findings - for month(s) of Apr-Jun 2017

The efforts of SHARP-Pakistan's team must be appreciated since they provided maximum possible support to all persons of concern, without having any extra resources.

Following are some of the notable activities undertaken during Apr-Jun 2017:

ICT, Punjab, AJK & Sindh:

Court Cases dealt= **121**

Legal Advise/Counselling= **198**

Legal Assistance (out of court)= **207**

Shura meetings (participants **832**, male=**475**, female=**357**)

Helpline calls= **1261**

Coordination meetings= **77**

New arrests reported = **125**

KPK:

Legal Awareness sessions= **119**

Released without being charged= **131**

LEGAL ASSISTANCE= **181**

LEGAL ADVICE AND COUNSELING= **2,407**

Helpline Calls = **1,072**

Legal Camps= **10** (807 persons sensitized, 408 male and 409 female)

Focus Group Discussions held= **05** with 102 participants (34 male, 68 female)

REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION (RSD)

Cases identified under PRF= **196**

PNAs conducted= **647**

KPK (ECHO project):

Legal Aid cases dealt= **49**

Legal Assistance cases= **73**

Counselling provided to PoC= **3,822**

Legal Sessions= **06** (a total of 354 male participants)

Capacity Building activities= **09** (a total of 322 participants)

Helpline Calls = **278**