



Society for Human Rights  
and Prisoners' Aid

Striving for a Human Rights Friendly  
Pakistan

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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## ACRONYMS

É ĘĠ	É ĘĠ
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ALAC	Advice and Legal Aid Center
APRRN	Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network
APS	Army Public School
BBR	Building Better Response
BIA	Best Interest Assessment
BID	Best Interest Determination
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
COI	Country of Origin Information
CPO	City Police Officer
DCO	District Coordination Officer
DG	Director General
DPO	District Police Officer
FIA	Federal Investigation Agency
GBV	Gender Based Violence
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IMC	International Medical Corpse
JJSO	Juvenile Justice System Ordinance
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LAP	Legal Assistance Programme
M.Sc.	Master of Science
NDU	National Defence University
NFI	Non Food Items
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PNA	Protection Need Assessment
POR	Proof of Registration
PPA	Protection of Pakistan Act
RAHA	Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas
RRN	Refugee Rights Network
RSD	Refugee Status Determination
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SHARP	Society for Human Rights and Prisoners' Aid
TEVTA	Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees
USD	United States Dollar

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*The Chairman of SHARP-Pakistan is a lawyer by profession, honoured with Presidential Award "Defender of Human rights" for his commitment and services to the humanity. Having over twenty-five years of experience in the field of human rights and law, he had also been the chief editor of first legal magazine of Pakistan with the name AL-QANOON. The magazine bears the honour of being presented in the court of law as reference in many cases. Mr. Banori is also a columnist and has been regularly giving his thoughts on various socio-political issues in leading newspapers in Pakistan.*



Dear friends and colleagues, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the Annual Report of SHARP-Pakistan for the year 2015.

Protection has been the core focus area for SHARP since its inception in 1998 and we are dedicated to extend our services to the destitute and deprived segments of the society. Our struggle for human rights protection and promotion has spanned over a decade now, but, unfortunately, the human rights situation in our country is still not satisfactory. The socio-political environment in our country has been fragile and undergone intermittent abruptions, which has severely undermined the welfare and the respect of human rights of the individuals living in Pakistan.

The refugee situation in Pakistan has always been managed through ad-hoc arrangements, which has further aggravated the sorry plight of their miserable lives. The non-accession of 1951 Refugee Convention by the government of Pakistan, and the lack of refugee-specific legislation in the country has, over the years, fuelled the vulnerabilities of the millions of refugees in Pakistan. SHARP-Pakistan feels greatly for this unfortunate segment of the population, and is continuously dedicating its services to the protection of the refugee population through various means; including but not limited to legal assistance, legal counselling, provision of education to the distressed refugee children and taking measures to improve their livelihood skills for enabling them to pursue their livelihood in a dignified manner.

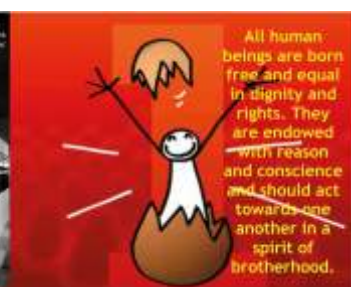
Juvenile delinquency is another pressing issue in Pakistan that is consuming the future of our country and requires immediate and urgent attention. The law concerning the management of juveniles exists with some practical infirmities and requires a thorough revision in light of the internationally accepted juvenile justice system. SHARP-Pakistan realized this lacuna in our system, and stepped forward to help the juvenile delinquents in the central prisons of Peshawar and Haripur. In this regard, SHARP-Pakistan had sensitized the relevant stakeholders on juvenile justice, child protection and media coverage of juvenile delinquencies. SHARP had also contributed in improving the conditions of the juvenile prisons and took measures to provide an enabling environment for them in order to help them become a productive individual of the society upon their release and urge them to abstain from further dwelling into the world of crime.

At this point, I would like to offer my utmost gratitude to the well-wishers of SHARP, the donors (UNHCR, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany), all ministries, govt. agencies, national & international organizations, supporting humanitarian networks such as

International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), and strategic partners (Judiciary, Police, FIA, disaster management authorities, health), media and civil society for their trust and support in helping SHARP realize its humanitarian and compassionate spirit in helping the marginalized segments of the society. I would also like to say appreciation to the projects' teams, volunteers and associates for their dedication and support in enabling SHARP help the destitute, distressed and marginalized segments of our society.

Taking advantage of this, I would like to salute all those Humanitarian workers who sacrificed their lives in different countries during performing their duties and set examples of devotion, dedication and commitment. I also appreciate and acknowledge the sacrifices of our security forces and Law Enforcement Agencies for sacrificing their lives for peace, stability and protection of rights of people of this country. I am sure all these sacrifices will not go waste and will ultimately contribute for a peaceful and human rights friendly Pakistan.

**Syed Liaqat Banori**



### **United Nations, Charter, 1945**

*"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."*



## SHARP-PAKISTAN

Society for Human Rights and Prisoners' Aid (SHARP) is a non-profitable, non-political and non-governmental organisation (NGO) registered with the Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies, Islamabad Capital Territory under Registration and Control Ordinance 1961 (XLVI of 1961). It was registered on 11 March 1999 with Registration no. VSWA / ICT / 300.

SHARP-Pakistanis striving for a human rights friendly Pakistan since 1999 by working for the well-being of vulnerable segments of the society through various means, be it advocacy, community services, capacity building, emergency response etc. SHARP has experience of working with various population groups (refugees, IDPs, women, juvenile delinquents, street children, prisoners and etc.) in different thematic areas including Protection, Child Protection, Emergency Response, Advocacy, Education, Infrastructure development, health, and other rights based approaches throughout the country. With its head office situated in Islamabad, SHARP has liaison and field offices in Lahore, Karachi, Mianwali, Peshawar, Mardan, Kohat and Haripur.

All the initiatives carried out by SHARP-Pakistan focus on ensuring equal opportunities for the deprived segments of the society through improved access to justice. SHARP-Pakistan concentrates on building capacities, ensuring promotion of human rights and access to justice by developing linkages and narrowing the gap between the deprived sections of the society and government institutions such as law enforcement agencies, judiciary, police, government machinery etc. that are responsible for providing justice and rights to the poor and needy segments of the society.

### Our vision

We believe that preservation and implementation of human rights is mandatory for the development of any society. Even in this era, the developing world is particularly falling short of fulfilling its commitments to honour the human rights of its citizens and promote respect for them. The sanctity of human life is a birth right, and thus its preservation is a responsibility that should be shared by all. By playing our part to protect the rights of deprived, marginalized and distressed segments of our society, we will pave the way for a progressive and just society, where human beings can thrive to realize their fullest potential and contribute towards a larger good of humanity.

### Our mission

*“Striving for Human Rights friendly Pakistan”*

Pakistan is a developing nation, and thus one of the shortcomings it faces unfortunately is a lack of sufficient human rights ordinance and awareness among the general population. SHARP-Pakistan realized this depravity in our country and, owing to its compassionate spirit, has strived for a human rights-friendly Pakistan since its inception. We believe that without the respect of human rights and their protection, no country in the world can claim to be a developed and civilized one, and this is the core philosophy behind all the interventions taken up so far by SHARP-Pakistan.

### Our goal

To eradicate injustice from society and promote empowerment of the general masses,

particularly women, children, refugees, prisoners, labourers and public at large.

## Our Objectives

- To increase awareness about human rights.
- To eradicate injustice through legal empowerment / legal reforms and effective implementation of international instruments.
- To promote child protection and juvenile justice.
- To support formal and informal access to justice.
- Networking with legal fraternity and provision of legal assistance.
- To promote safe migration to reduce human trafficking.
- To promote positive social behaviour by encouraging health, hygiene and WASH education.
- To promote the spirit of volunteerism through meaningful youth participation.
- To develop human capital through formal and informal education, skill development and vocational training.
- To strengthen the emergency response through DRR and effective DRM.

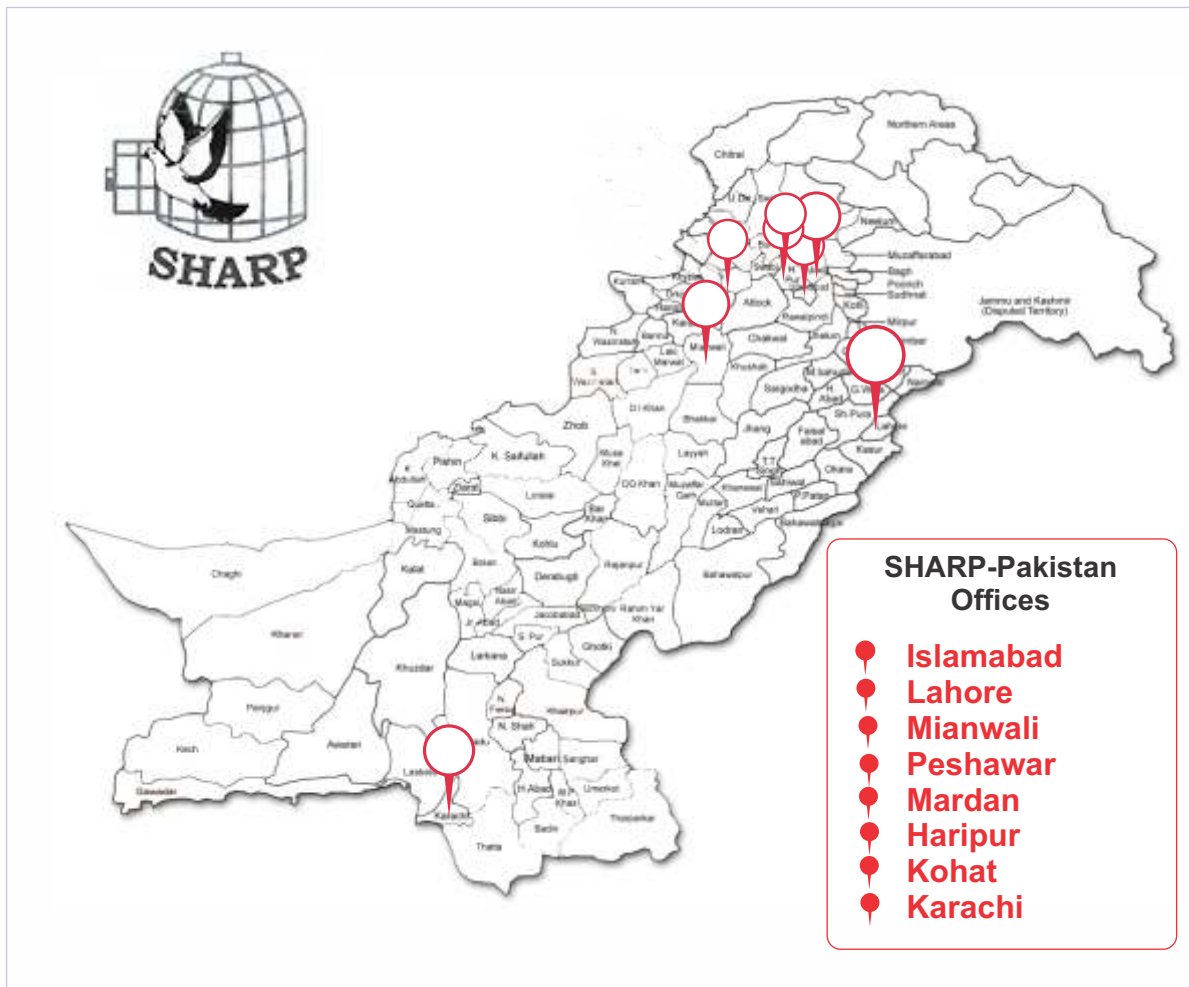
## GEOGRAPHICAL OUTREACH

SHARP-Pakistan advocates the rights of the deserving and distressed individuals and communities all across Pakistan. The ongoing interventions in the thematic areas of refugee protection, child protection, livelihoods and education are being carried out in Islamabad Capital Territory, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Sindh and Azad Kashmir, which are managed through the field offices listed below. The head office of SHARP-Pakistan is based in Islamabad.

REGION	OFFICE LOCATION
Islamabad Capital Territory	Islamabad
Punjab	Lahore
	Mianwali
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK)	Peshawar
	Mardan
	Haripur
	Kohat
Sindh	Karachi

The Islamabad office also oversees operations in Rawalpindi, Abbottabad and Azad Kashmir regions.





### Team Leaders 2015

**ISLAMABAD**



Taufiq Ahmed  
ALAC



Ansa Azeem  
RSD

**LAHORE**



Zainab Raza  
Jafri

**MIANWALI**



Imran Khan

**KARACHI**



Ghulam  
Mujtaba

**PESHAWAR**



Asad Afridi

**KOHAT**



Ghias Gilani

**MARDAN**



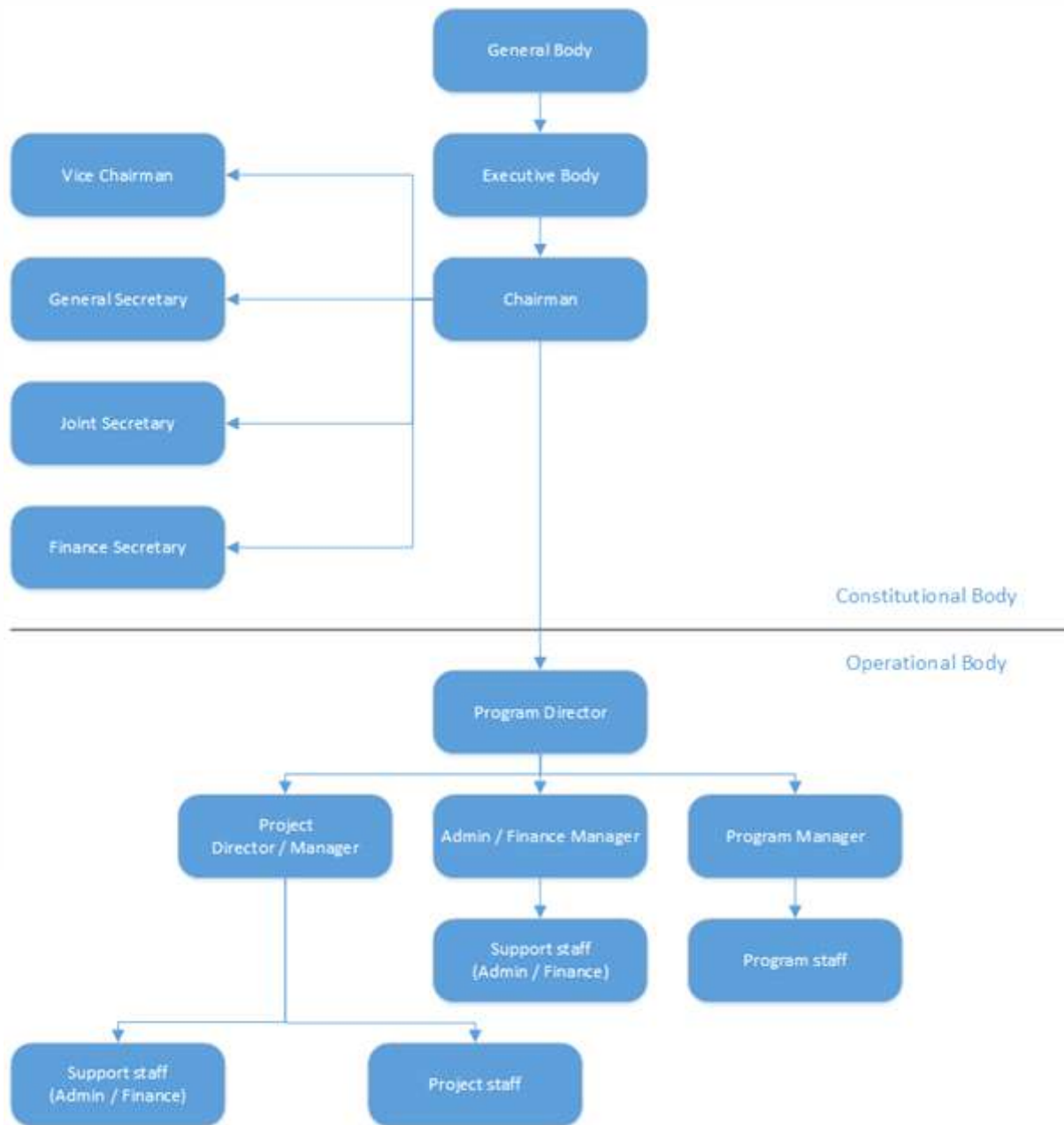
Faizan Ali  
Khan

**HARIPUR**



Muhammad  
Rafiq

# GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT



*"To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity."*

**- Nelson Mandela**

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

*The Director of SHARP-Pakistan brings with him an academic background in Anthropology, exceptional interpersonal skills as well as work experience in Project Management, M&E, Advocacy and Communication, networking and Relationship Management.*



*The director provides overall management and leadership to the organization in accordance with direct guidelines of senior management; working closely with diverse teams, various stakeholders, including institutional partners and networks as well as engaging with the wider philanthropic sector and donor agencies. He also oversees finance, administration and infrastructure whilst promoting best practice, and ensures quality and excellence across all verticals.*

*His role focuses on expanding the reach and impact of the capacity building work of the organization to achieve its vision of a strong and sustainable human rights friendly society.*

Greetings everyone!

Social development environment is undergoing significant changes every now and then. Every year has ushered in new hopes and challenges.

The new era requires managers with dynamism, vision and initiative. Proficiency and multitasking in every sphere is the call of the day.

Keeping in the mind of times, we at SHARP-Pakistan are engaged in chiselling and shaping our communities so that they are able to take any challenges of the present and future in their stride.

Our young team of 145 dedicated professionals works round the clock to deliver result-oriented advice and legal aid assistance quality services to thousands of beneficiaries all over Pakistan.

We present to you a brief overview of our organization along our achievements and accomplishments throughout the calendar year 2015 and sincerely hope that your gracious support and encouragement would help us improve upon our humanitarian initiatives.

**Muhammad Mudassar Javed**

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR (KPK REGION)

*Ms. Batool has dedicated over a decade of her services to SHARP-Pakistan, and is one of our oldest and most valuable assets. Having a delightfully amicable personality, she has excellent interpersonal skills and is known around all of SHARP-Pakistan's offices as a person who will not only go the extra mile, but successfully motivate her team to do so too. Her academic background is of a law graduate majoring in political science and gender studies from the University of Punjab.*



*As a lawyer by profession, she specializes in social and gender-based issues. Some of the most notable achievements in her vast professional experience include serving as a gender-specialist for the government of Punjab, as well as being an Advocate High Court Lahore.*

KPK is hosting approximately 62 percent of Afghan refugees for more than three decades. Initially the refugees were living in Refugee camps, enjoying facilities within the camps but now the situation has changed and refugees are moving to urban settlements to earn their livelihood and other amenities such as health, education, WASH etc. SHARP-Pakistan (KPK) has developed linkages with other service providers and stakeholders to assist refugees in a timely manner and facilitate them where we have limited resources. We have successfully developed a network of active refugee committees in urban areas of Peshawar through our urban satellite services. Our main objective is to empower refugees to settle their issues through the self-help system.

Capacity building, sensitization trainings and increasing awareness are the main components of the SHARP-Pakistan (KPK) project; we are very focused in creating harmonious relations among stakeholders and refugees through sessions, workshops for police, judicial officers, prosecutors, media institutions, students and communities on various issues such as human rights, the protection and current status of refugees in Pakistan, gender based violence and youth education and empowerment.

We are thankful to all our stakeholders including government departments, UNHCR, partners and other like-minded organizations for helping us achieve our goals.

**Memoona Batool Khan – Project Director, KPK region**

## OUR WORK

### Events

2015 was a busy year for SHARP-Pakistan, with a strong focus on education for all and sensitizing various communities within our society. The highlights of this year's activities pertaining to providing protection, legal aid and assistance, psycho-social support, referral services, sensitizing, capacity building of relevant stakeholders, coordination meetings with line departments and creating awareness are listed below;

### International Women's Day

The International Women's Day was celebrated on the 12th of March 2015, and SHARP-Pakistan commemorated the day by organizing an event at the Bibi Maryam Afghan School for refugees in KPK.



The event included many fun activities for the students as well as their parents, and helped spread awareness regarding the importance of, and the rights of women amongst the participants.

### Grand Jirga

SHARP-Pakistan organized a Grand Jirga in the Sindh province on the 8th of April 2015 in collaboration with UNHCR and Afghan Refugee Repatriation Cell (ARRC). The Grand Jirga was used as a platform for reaching out to the numerous refugee communities covering a wide region and helping them overcome the various issues they were facing within their communities from basic needs like food, clothing and shelter to security issues, PoR card registration, voluntary repatriation and employment opportunities.

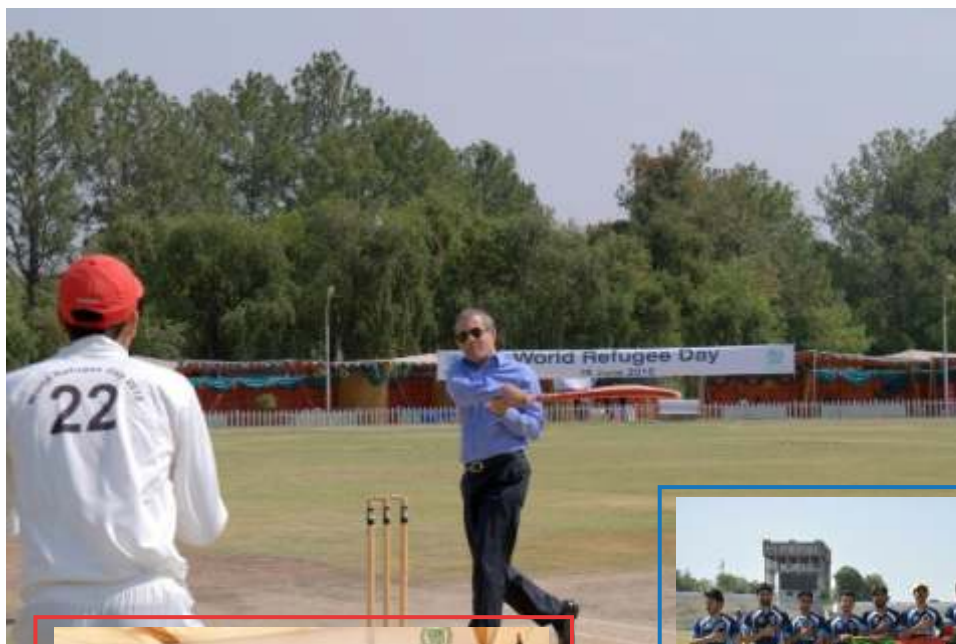




The top five major concerns identified during the Grand Jirga were related to PoR cards, Refugee Status Determination (RSD), police harassment, education, medical and financial assistance.

### World Refugee Day

As per tradition, SHARP-Pakistan celebrated World Refugee Day on the 20th of June 2015 with the spirit of optimism and some light-hearted fun-filled activities. This year, SHARP-Pakistan organized two cricket matches in Islamabad and Peshawar between members of different NGOs and the local refugees as an opportunity to build rapport and promote trust and understanding between the two groups.



**Mr. Indrika, Country Head UNHCR playing the opening shot of the cricket match**



**The Afghan team, standing in honour of their national anthem.**



**Chairman of SHARP-Pakistan giving away cash prize to the winning team.**



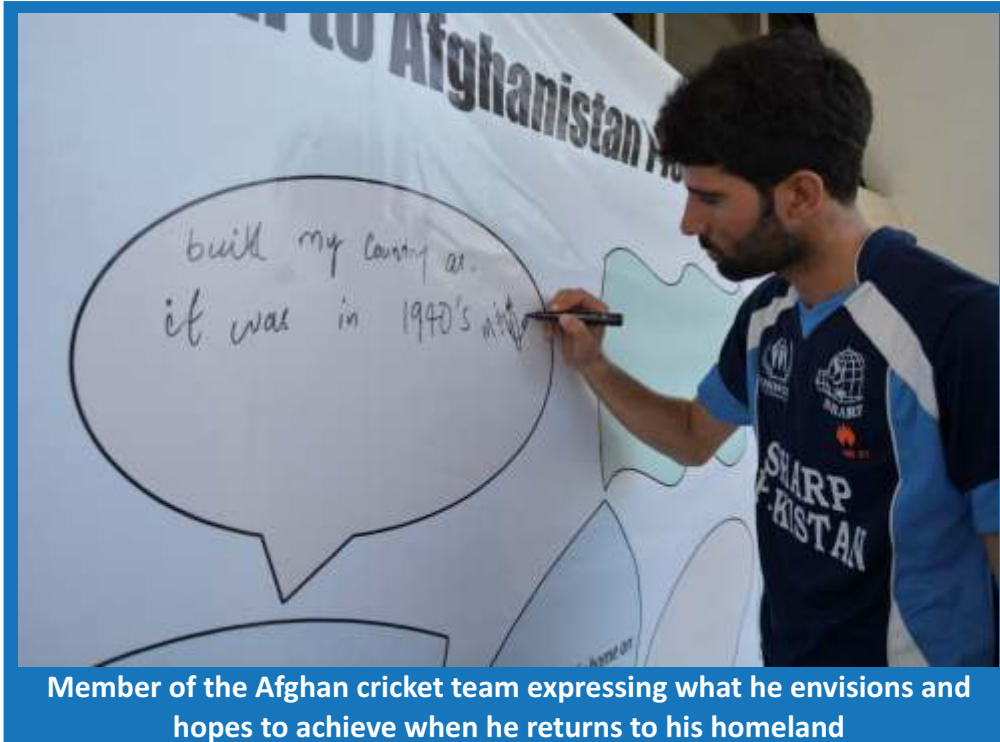
**The Pakistani team, after winning the match.**



**Director of SHARP-Pakistan (KPK) & Mr. Franquin, Head of UNHCR sub-office Peshawar at opening ceremony.**

The event proved to be a huge success; all the attendees had a great time, and made new friends and acquaintances that will, without a doubt, help to provide a sense of solidarity and strengthen the bonds within our communities.

As an additional activity, SHARP-Pakistan invited participating Afghans to write down what they hoped to see or accomplish when they returned to their homeland:



**Member of the Afghan cricket team expressing what he envisions and hopes to achieve when he returns to his homeland**

This little activity served as a reminder to all of the importance of having a place one can truly call 'home', and renewed a sense of hope and patriotism amongst everyone present. The Afghan youth strongly believe in themselves and in their ability to restore Afghanistan to its former glory; and their loyalty and determination to prove it is truly inspirational.

### **Seminar by Dr. Frederick Rooney**

Dr. Fredrick P. Rooney is a nominated Full-bright specialist by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the Institute of International Education's Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES); honorary professor at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo Faculty of Jurisprudence and Political Science; creator of Community Legal Resource Network (CLRN); recipient of several state awards and has more than thirty years of experience in promoting and facilitating access to justice for marginalized and resource deficient population groups in USA and internationally.

Dr. Rooney visited the SHARP-Pakistan Islamabad office on the 13th of October 2015, and was the distinguished guest at the event. He spoke about the similarity between the USA and Pakistan in terms of legal protection of refugees and immigrants and the problems faced by these groups related to access to information and resources and even the exclusiveness of the national legal system to extend protection to these vulnerable millions. He also enlightened the participants about "Incubator for Justice" his brainchild to enhance the access to justice by the vulnerable, economically disadvantaged and unrepresented litigants through capacity



building and sensitization of recent law graduates, who bear interest in using their professional skills to help these segments of the society. Dr. Rooney also shared his plan about launching the Incubator for Justice in Pakistan with the potential organizations and institutions working for the promotion of rule of law in Pakistan. Dr. Rooney appreciated RRN-Pakistan for hosting this event and providing an opportunity for such diversified representation from national and international humanitarian actors to discuss gaps and challenges undermining the rule of law and hindering the access to justice in Pakistan. He further iterated that such semi-formal discussions provide constructive and progressive opportunities to forge solutions to these daunting social issues and challenges.

The discussion session remained quite exuberant with participants sharing their professional experiences and the challenges they faced during their respective humanitarian interventions. The salient features of the discussion about issues and challenges in humanitarian assistance vis-a-vis duty bearers and right holders included lack of capacity of duty bearers, inefficient implementation mechanism, resource insufficiencies, socio-cultural norms, alternate dispute resolution, lack of rights-based awareness and access to redress channels.



The meeting concluded with the following recommendations:

- New legal reforms and removal of infirmities from the existing legal system.
- Launching a comprehensive (3-5 days proposed) capacity building initiative for judiciary, legal fraternity, law enforcement and administrative departments on human rights and constitutional guarantees of individual rights and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of procedural issues concerning human rights.
- Improving efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation mechanism to respond appropriately in cases of rights based violations.
- Effective monitoring of human rights violations and performance of redress channels.
- Establishment of follow-up mechanism to expedite grievance redress.
- Provision of subsidies/ incentives for pro-bono commitments of legal fraternity to increase access to justice by poor and disadvantaged victims of rights based violations.
- Improve and facilitate mass awareness about rights of individuals, responsibilities of state and the duty bearers and information about the channels of grievance redress.
- Increase the number of access points for grievance redress across the country.
- Establishment of an organized watch committee to oversee the rights based conflict resolution through alternate dispute resolution.
- Improved access to justice for victims of rights based violations.
- Strengthen the bar council to effectively support the cases of rights based violations.
- Assurance of effective implementation of laws protecting individual rights and sovereignty.
- Gender balance in courts, law enforcement and administrative departments to facilitate the female victims of rights based violations particularly GBV.
- Establishment and empowerment of tehsil or district level human rights councils/ committees to oversee the rights based violations within their respective jurisdiction.
- Establishment of joint stakeholders working group involving government and non-governmental organizations, and civil society to promote and protect human rights.
- Establishment of human rights cell in each public office with significant public interaction.

### UNHCR meeting

A donor mission from UNHCR visited the SHARP-Pakistan Islamabad office on the 28th of October 2015, comprising of various donors as well as other officials from UNHCR country office.



### 16 days of Activism

The central theme for this year's 16 days of Activism was 'Safe education for all', with emphasis on promoting a safe learning environment in order to build a better, safer community for all. There were various activities, designed to encourage and spark an interest in learning amongst the young refugee children.



**Essay writing competition for Afghan students between grades 6 – 12**



**Karate competition within the Afghan refugee students**



**Puppet show for Afghan children**



**Children singing at a get-together organized by SHARP-Pakistan**



Learning should not be limited to academics; we consider extracurricular activities just as important.

### World Disability Day

“Let's focus on people's abilities rather than their disabilities.” – Dr. Zulqurnain Asghar

SHARP-Pakistan celebrated World Disability Day on the 3rd of December 2015 by organizing a seminar to spread awareness as well as sensitize various local communities (including refugees) on the special needs of those with disabilities.

The chief guest of honour was Dr. Zulqurnain Asghar, the first visually impaired South Asian clinical psychologist. He attended a session with disabled Afghan refugees to commemorate the International Day of Persons with disabilities at UNHCR's implementing partner, SHARP-Pakistan's office, in Islamabad.



Among the attendees were disabled refugees along with their support staff

The doctor emphasized; **“A person with disabilities should be treated with respect and dignity and provided equal opportunities to progress without being labelled as disabled in accordance with their special needs.”**

Dr. Asghar appreciated the initiative taken by SHARP-Pakistan and expressed his wish that more organizations should take the initiative to help spread awareness and sensitization regarding the needs of special people.

### Yao Chen's (UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, China) visit to SHARP-Pakistan Islamabad office

Ms. Yao Chen is one of China's most popular actresses and also one of the world's top micro-bloggers; listed as the 83rd most powerful woman in the world by Forbes. With more than 48 million followers on Weibo, the Chinese equivalent of Twitter, she has been called "the Queen of Weibo" in recognition of her wide reach and powerful influence through social media.

Using her social media platform, she has helped to dramatically increase public awareness of

refugee issues in the Chinese-speaking world, and thus in June 2013 she was named UNHCR's Goodwill Ambassador in China.

Since starting her work with UNHCR in 2010, Yao Chen has met with refugees in Hong Kong, the Philippines, Thailand and Ethiopia. This year she came to meet the Afghan refugees in Pakistan in Mianwali, and graced the SHARP-Pakistan Islamabad office with her presence on the 18th of December 2015.



SHARP-Pakistan organized an event in honour of her visit, and served as a platform for promoting the talents of young Afghan refugees and students. Highlights from the event included Christmas greetings and decorations made by the children, an art exhibition showcasing various art and craft material such as cards, shawls, and a sketched portrait of Yao Chen which she particularly got very fond of and impressed with. The art exhibition also served to highlight the contrast between the works of school-going children and those who are not so privileged.

### **Seminar: Role of Media for Human Rights and Refugee Protection in Pakistan**

The seminar was held on the 14th of December 2015, with the chief guest speaker being Mr. Rahman Azhar, a renowned national television anchor. The seminar covered topics including the international law regarding non-refoulement while dealing with Afghan refugees, as well as the role of the media in the promotion of human rights in general.

Mr. Rahman Azhar highlighted the fact that social media plays a crucial part in the dissemination of information including real-time news updates through social networking platforms such as Twitter and Facebook; and that television reporting does partially use and rely on these platforms for up-to-the-minute updates as well as broadcasting information.

As such, he emphasized on and encouraged the sensitization of media as well as the public at large who use these social networking platforms regarding the plight of refugees, as proper sensitization would go a long way in spreading awareness and sensitizing the masses in the shortest span of time.



Other stakeholders in attendance included members of the civil society, media, academia and youth.

### Candle-lit vigil for the victims of the APS Peshawar massacre

SHARP-Pakistan organized a public event in memory of the innocent children massacred on the 16th of December 2014 in a cowardly terrorist attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar.





## Capacity Building, Awareness Raising and Trainings

SHARP believes that the violations of Human Rights could be effectively reduced through advocacy, awareness experience sharing and best practices among the stakeholders through regular interactions for better and positive image of our country in the world. To achieve this goal SHARP time to time arrange workshops/ seminars for Police officials, Lawyers, Judicial Officers, NGOs and students on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Laws, Refugee Rights, Gender based violence and Child Protection. In 2015, SHARP-Pakistan has trained 438 officials including Police, Lawyers, Judiciary, Public Prosecutors and persons from Local authorities & district administration, from all regions.

### Consultation session with Judicial Officers

SHARP-Pakistan organized a one-day consultation session with Judicial Officers on the 21st of November 2015 on the topic of '*International Protection, Refugee Rights and status of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan*' at Pearl Continental Hotel, Peshawar.

The participants included Mr. Jacques Franquin—Head of UNHCR Sub-Office Peshawar, Ms. Gwendoline Mensah—Senior Protection Officer, Mr. Bashir Ahmad—Protection Officer, Mr. Jabran Nazar—Home Department), Mr. Inam Ullah—Judge High Court Peshawar and Mr. Syed Liaqat Banori—Chairman of SHARP-Pakistan, along with 17 Judicial Officers.



**Participants of the event at Pearl Continental Hotel, Peshawar**



**Presentation in session**



**Chairman SHARP-Pakistan presenting a shield to Mr. Jacques Franquin**

### Training for Public Prosecutors

In December 2015, SHARP organized an orientation session for the Public Prosecutors KPK at Hotel one Abbottabad. It was a great opportunity to interact directly with the public prosecutors of whole KP. Total twenty participated and shared valuable inputs.



## Police Training workshops

Police and Law enforcing agency are important stakeholder for the implementation of human rights. Indeed Police is the first visible point of contact for the vulnerable people so they must be sensitized and orientated about the basic human rights, their role to uplift human rights in society and slandered of international policing. Keeping in mind the same SHARP trained 438 Police officials in 2015 (KPK= 338, Punjab/ Sindh/ ICT/ AJK= 100) through various trainings, capacity building sessions and sensitization workshops in Islamabad, Mianwali, Lahore, Karachi, Kohat, DI Khan, Haripur, Abbotabad, Mansehra, Mardan Temargrah, Dir and Chitral.



Police training – Mansehra, KPK



Police training – D.I. Khan, KPK



Presenting shield to DIG, D.I. Khan, KPK



Police training – Sargodha, Punjab



Police training – Mardan, KPK



Police training – Layyah, Punjab

## Capacity Building of local authorities on GBV

GBV is one of the most widespread human rights abuses that endangers the physical integrity and emotional well-being of victims particularly women and girls across the world. This form of discrimination causes untold miseries, cutting short lives and leaving countless women living in pain and fear. Violence against women stops them from fulfilling their potential, restricts economic growth and undermines development. It can only be eliminated by addressing discrimination, promoting women's equality and empowerment, and ensuring that women's human rights are fulfilled. SHARP KPK organized "Capacity Building Workshop" for refugee communities, local authorities and district administrations to reduce GBV issue especially in refugee communities. SHARP trained 103 local authorities through 04 sessions and 121 females through 16 Focus Group discussions in refugee villages and urban settlements.

***"Refugees are part of humanity and we can't leave them behind."***

- Ger Duany

### Capacity Building Workshop – Afghan Refugee Committees



Participants included Afghan refugee community leaders



Distribution of certificate among the participants of the workshop

## Training and Sensitization - Local Authorities and Community Elders



## Focus Group Discussions



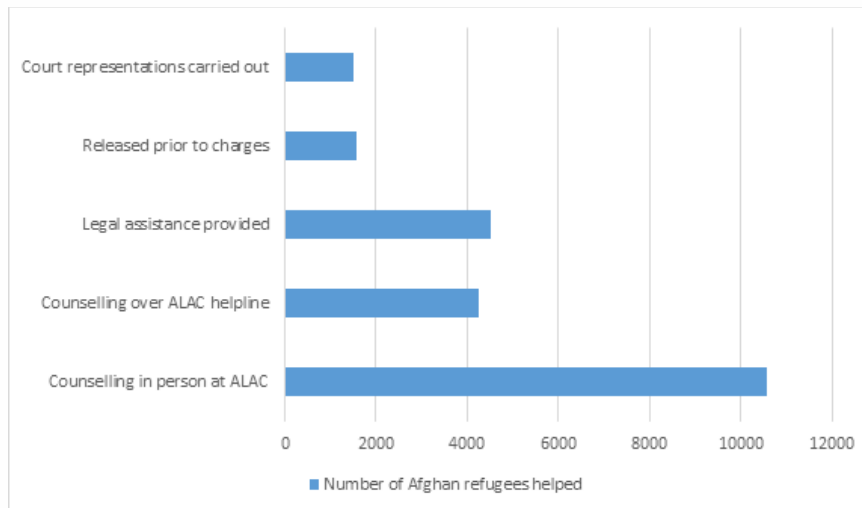
*"We are all entitled to live  
free and equal."*

- Amina J Mohammed

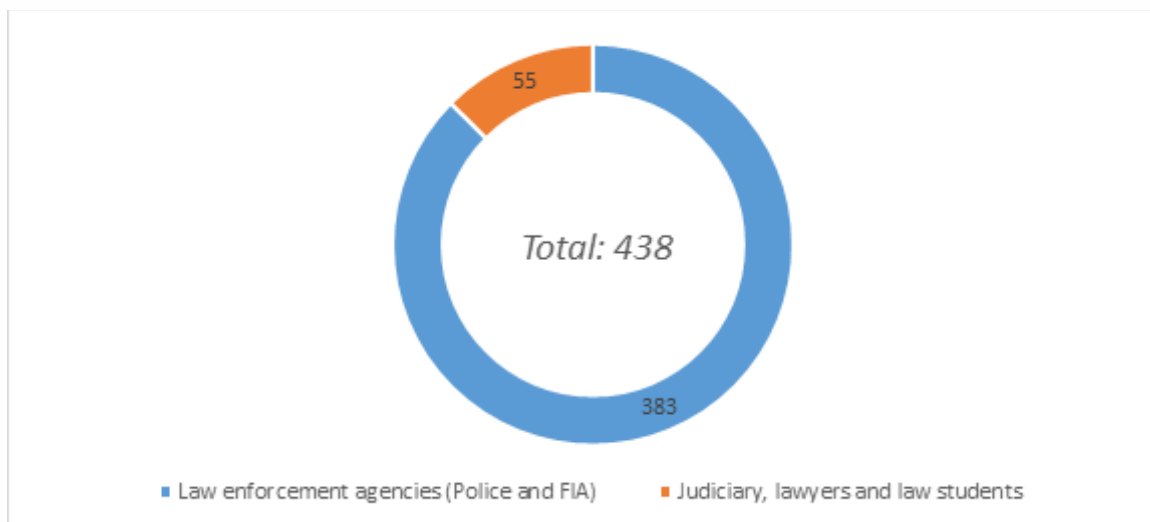
### Summary and Statistics

Various activities throughout the year have helped us realise our ambitions and made a positive impact on the communities we have engaged with. To provide a better perspective on the matter, please see our statistics for the year 2015 below:

#### Advice and Legal Aid Centers



#### Sensitization and Training



#### Others

1275 Afghan refugees were provided cash grants.



## Co-ordination meetings with various stakeholders

### Meeting with the Honourable District Police Officer (DPO), Badin; Mian Abrar Hussain Nekokara

The meeting was held 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 Police Department for Afghan Refugee communities.

DPO Badin extolled the efforts of SHARP-Pakistan and UNHCR, which have played a monumental role in promoting and protecting goodwill within the communities.

The meeting ended with the Director of SHARP-Pakistan and DPO pledging to continue working hand in hand for the protection, peace and prosperity of vulnerable communities.



The honourable DPO, Mian Abrar Hussain Nekokara, presents the Director of SHARP-Pakistan with traditional and cultural gifts

### Meeting with Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP), Kala Bagh

The honourable DSP, Chaudhry Munir, prior to the meeting with the Director of SHARP-Pakistan.

The meeting was held to inform and update the DSP on the work done by SHARP-Pakistan, and the overall aims and objectives it hopes to achieve in the near future. The Director of SHARP-Pakistan requested the DSP to cooperate and assist our mission by facilitating our local team with matters pertaining to the Afghan refugees in the region. The key focus area was the expiration of PoR cards by the end of December 2015.



The meeting concluded with the DSP commending SHARP-Pakistan's efforts and assuring the Director of his cooperation and support.

### Meeting with Senior Superintendent Police (SSP), Karachi

The honourable SSP, Mr. Usman Ijaz Bajwa, with the Director of SHARP-Pakistan after the meeting

The meeting was held to seek the support of the SSP in our efforts with solving the issues faced by the Afghan refugee communities in the metropolitan city of Karachi. The SSP was pleased with our operations in the region and ensured the Director of his support.



## Other interventions / Relief activities

### Background Information

Pakistan lies between Latitudes of 24°N and 37°N and Longitudes of 62°E and 75°E, covering a total land area of 796,095 km. The country shares its borders with Iran to the west, India in the Southeast, Afghanistan in the north-west, and China in the north. The Arabian Sea lies to its south. Pakistan is a land of great topographic and climatic contrasts. The country is geographically divided into three areas: the northern highlands, the Indus river plains and the Baluchistan plateau.

Pakistan is a country of diverse natural and physical environment. This diversified environment, however, is also a challenge and threat as it may also give birth to a variety of natural disasters such as Earthquake, Floods, Landslides and Drought etc.

Pakistan continues to suffer from a plethora of natural and human induced hazards that threaten to affect the lives and livelihood of its citizens - natural disasters including floods, earthquakes, landslides, cyclones, and drought to human induced disasters such as fires, civil unrest and terrorism, refugees and internally displaced people, health epidemics, transport accidents, industrial accidents and war. The human impact of natural disasters in Pakistan can be judged by the fact that 6,037 people were killed and 8,989,631 affected in the period between 1993 and 2002 (World Disasters Report 2003, Geneva).

### SHARP-Pakistan interventions during emergencies

Due to lack of capacity and management of governmental institutions, civil society and Non-Government Organizations (NGO) have been playing key roles in disaster management. SHARP-Pakistan has been very active during emergencies through Pakistan. SHARP-Pakistan is a registered non-governmental national organization working in Pakistan since 1999 for the promotion and protection of Human Rights with the vision of a Human Rights friendly Pakistan. SHARP has been working with different donors in a variety of thematic areas and particularly with UNHCR since last 15 years in ensuring an enabling and protective environment for refugees.

SHARP-Pakistan works at grass root level and thus has been instrumental to raise public awareness and preparedness in the field of Disaster management. During disaster and emergencies SHARP-Pakistan has assisted in humanitarian work like rescue operations and relief distribution, medical facilities and capacity building trainings of relevant stakeholders and communities in post-disaster phase it has actively assisted in reconstruction, rehabilitation works and established community schools in camps to facilitate children, women and families.

During the emergencies, SHARP-Pakistan has conducted variety of activities to ensure that the affectees' issues were monitored, identified, reported and addressed properly through established SHARP-Pakistan Help Centers in different districts. Through these help-centers over 200,000 affectees were facilitated through protection monitoring, information sharing, counselling and legal aid services and referral mechanism.

### Distribution of NFIs



Distribution of plastic sheets as a makeshift shelter



Distribution of tents as a temporary shelter

### Medical camp

The SHARP-Pakistan team in KPK organised a medical camp in efforts to provide relief to the local communities there. The medical camp also served as a seminar, where the participants were informed of local potential health hazards and how to protect themselves under the circumstances.

All treatments were provided free of cost to the affected.





## OUR CORE PROGRAMS

### PROTECTION

Pakistan is home to approximately 1.6 million protracted registered refugees, with an estimated equal number of unregistered migrants from Afghanistan. Such a huge population of displaced persons leaves indelible imprints on the socio-economic, political and security institutions of Pakistan, and needs to be dealt with in a systematic and organized manner. Unfortunately, no concrete measures are in place on a national level, which adds to the complexity of dealing with these millions of vulnerable individuals.

Youth empowerment is an attitudinal, structural, and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability, authority, and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and those around them.

Youth empowerment is often addressed as a gateway to intergenerational equity, civic engagement and democracy building. Therefore, many local, state, provincial, regional, national, and international government agencies and nonprofit community-based organizations provide programs centered on youth empowerment.

### YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Juvenile delinquency is a global phenomenon and is ubiquitous in both developed and developing countries.

In Pakistan juvenile delinquency is rising and needs immediate attention. There is a juvenile specific legal framework in Pakistan (JJSO), which lays down the foundation and guiding principles to deal with the Juvenile offenders. While this ordinance entails some strong provisions concerning juvenile offenders, there is more that needs to be included to make it an encompassing and complete framework for juvenile delinquents.

### CHILD PROTECTION

Education is the fundamental right of every individual, and becomes even more important when one is displaced from the comfort and protection of one's home.

Such is the case for displaced children, who happen to be caught up in a protracted emergency situation.

The misery of their present greatly undermines their future if they are deprived of this fundamental right to education.

### EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

## Core Program 1 – Protection

SHARP-Pakistan's Legal Assistance Program (LAP) plays a central role in managing and implementing the SOPs of most of our core programs, including Refugee protection. The LAP comprises of two units; the Advice & Legal Aid Center (ALAC) and the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) unit.

During the reported period (2015), 24238 direct beneficiaries (individuals) had been assisted by the Legal Assistance Programme (LAP) through its two components on various issues such as legal assistance in police harassment, civil matters, illegal detention, Foreigners' Act, child protection, education etc. Under this programme, SHARP had also sensitized the refugee community on various issues to enable them to make informed decisions for their stay in Pakistan or voluntary repatriation.



SHARP-Pakistan sponsored free legal camp for Afghan refugees

The two components of legal assistance programme cater to the needs of refugee community in a holistic manner and compliment the activities of one another in an integrated fashion.

### Advice and Legal Aid Center (ALAC)

SHARP is implementing partner with UNHCR since 2001 and operating Advice and Legal Aid centers (ALAC) in Punjab and KPK. The main purpose of these centers is to provide legal assistance and facilitate repatriation through information and sharing procedures. In each location operational activities are carried out by a competent team of Lawyers who are well versed with the governing Laws and Legal developments in Pakistan, jurisprudence of the Local Courts and Human Rights Institutions affecting the beneficiaries. Main activities of ALAC are to :

- To provide free Advice and Legal Aid to the Afghan and non-Afghan Refugees and Asylum Seekers and assist refugees in Court in
- Illegal Arrest & Detention
- 14 Foreigners Act Cases
- Person charged under preventive Law (55/109, 107/151,118)
- Family cases, Tenancy disputes & Recovery suits

ALAC teams orient refugee communities through regular interaction. Visits, community meetings and Legal camps, to build a better understanding and to communicate them new development in Government policies and to provide Socio-Legal support.

ALAC teams liaison with other stake holders and services providers such as Law Enforcement Agencies, Judiciary, Law faculty, Government departments, NGOs and jail authorities. Teams arrange sensitization session, training workshop and capacity building of the stakeholders.

### Legal Camps

Legal Camps are important component of ALAC activities, SHARP legal teams time to time arrange camps and awareness sessions at the door step of refugees. The main purpose of these camps is to approach refugees who feel difficulty to access ALAC teams and facilitate maximum

number of clients in short span of time. In 2015, 1873 participants were sensitized through 20 legal camps throughout ICT, AJ&K, Punjab and Sindh. While 24 legal camps were conducted in KPK region, sensitizing 1150 participants.



Legal Camps

### Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

Refugee Status Determinations is core program of UNHCR by that UNHCR determines whether a person seeking international protection is considered a refugee under international, regional or national law. SHARP is assisting UNHCR:

- To identify the cases of Asylum seekers
- To conduct Protection Need Assessment (PNAs)
- Registration of the applicant
- Counseling with the applicant in their areas of concern
- Household Visits and verifications
- To prepare a profile of the applicant on the prescribed formats and to submit it to the UNHCR for decision

The RSD department caters to the protection needs of the refugees/asylum seekers by registering them with the UNHCR for assessment of their protection needs and determination of their eligibility for access to durable solutions. In this capacity, SHARP-Pakistan provides preliminary registration of the asylum seekers and works as the correspondence and coordination center between the UNHCR and the refugees.

The RSD department also provides logistic facilities to the asylum seekers for presentation at the UNHCR.

## Success stories

### 70 refugees released

In the month of October, 2015 SHARP-Pakistan Karachi office received a call on via the helpline that 70 Afghans had been arrested by the law enforcing agencies in District Jacobabad, Sindh. After receiving of information about this arrest, SHARP-Karachi Legal Aid Team immediately intervened and found that all the arrested Afghan refugees were having legal documents but even then were not released for the purpose of harassment and grabbing money. The police raided their home(s) at mid-night, arrested them and sent them to jail.

SHARP-Karachi Legal Aid team proceeded with legal aid, contacting District Judiciary and sought support for verification of their identification documents.

*With the efforts and legal support, all the seventy refugees were released by the competent Court of of Jacobabad.*

### Cancer Patient

An Afghan<sup>+</sup> visited the SHARP-Pakistan office in Karachi with his cousin in September. He was a registered PoR cardholder; seemed gravely ill and was seeking any help or assistance that we could provide. Judging by his vulnerability and adverse health condition, our medical team conducted a health examination and found he had a history of difficulty in deglutition of food, and severe pain in his digestive tract. Since there was an urgent need for his treatment to save his life, but he lacked the financial means for it, proper and timely treatment posed a challenge for SHARP-Pakistan.

Regardless, the patient was taken to Indus hospital, where he was diagnosed with Oesophageal Cancer. The consultants there suggested incisive surgery, followed by radio/chemotherapy. The Medical Officer then accompanied the patient to JMDC, and through SHARP-Pakistan referral basis, he was admitted into the hospital and a week later his first incisive surgery was carried out, which was completely free for him, and so were all the medicines used for chemo and radiotherapy.

*Over the course of time, he underwent three (3) surgeries and other treatments, all free along with free medicines, and now is on radio/chemotherapy in the same hospital and recovering with each passing day.*

### Relocation in a shelter home

Two young women, along with a 6 months old baby girl visited the SHARP-Pakistan office in Islamabad. They explained how they were forced to flee from Afghanistan because they were allegedly abused by near family members. They reached Rawalpindi where a taxi driver provided them refuge in his house. However later on they were not comfortable with the host and approached the SHARP-Pakistan office to seek help.

Keeping in view the nature of allegations and the case, SHARP-Pakistan conducted their Protection Need Assessment (PNA) interview, immediately informed the ALAC team as well as UNHCR to take prompt action and arrange for a suitable shelter for the women, as the women were fearful their family members would pursue them here and forcefully take them back. Meanwhile, different shelter homes were contacted in this regard.

*Their case has been forwarded to UNHCR for further processing and action. And the women along with children were shifted to a shelter home.*

## Core Program 2 – Youth Empowerment

SHARP-Pakistan's mainstream efforts this year were focused on the promotion of education and thus empowerment of the youth in our society. SHARP-Pakistan strongly believes that the youth of today, regardless of their social status or background, will be the key factor in shaping the world of tomorrow; as therefore it is through them that we will be able to secure a better future for ourselves and for the coming generations.

This will require minimizing the opportunity gaps that can fuel a sense of inequality, racism, discrimination and general unrest and rebellion amongst young people; and providing education will help to ensure that this generation of young people will be better equipped to be able to break free from the cycle of poverty by seizing economic opportunities and also be able to lead their communities towards a more progressive and equitable future.

Studies show that an added year of secondary schooling for a girl can increase her lifetime earnings by 15-20 percent. Furthermore, experience is showing that with a greater voice and outreach through modern social media and increased participation and engagement, the youth can be a force for tolerance and social cohesion and in effect the building of democratic institutions – all factors that are necessary for a society to truly progress, development and grow.



Power of Education – 18 December 2015

## Core Program 3 – Child Protection

SHARP-Pakistan proposed a one-year project for the welfare and development of juvenile prisoners in central prison Peshawar and central prison Haripur which was in furtherance of a pilot project implemented by SHARP-Pakistan in the years 2012-2013, and requested Federal Foreign Office, Embassy of Germany to extend their support for this initiative.

The project comprised of different components such as need-based renovation of facilities for



juveniles, educational and health and hygiene kits to juveniles, provision of legal aid to juveniles in central prison Peshawar and Haripur, establishment of skill training labs in both jails, holding advocacy and lobbying on / for prison reforms, mass media awareness campaign on / for the rights of juvenile inmates and capacity building of stakeholders on child protection and juvenile justice system, were carefully designed by keeping the needs of the juveniles in mind.



Juvenile students of a religious seminary sit chained in police detention

Source: The Express Tribune Pakistan

Following the targets of building local capacity for sustainability, SHARP decided to work in collaboration with different institutions like Inspectorate of Prisons, Home and Law Departments, Directorate of Probation and provincial child protection commission, instead of working directly in the target population. SHARP has worked very closely with these institutions and provided consistent technical support and assistance, training, capacity building and monitoring and evaluation.

Project gained well recognition among the decision makers and provincial government. Promotion of juvenile justice system ordinance and establishment of enabling environment for juveniles in Prisons by SHARP were well acknowledged and appreciated by Chief Minister KPK, Advisor to Minister on prisons KPK, I.G Prisons KPK and law Minister KPK.

#### **Project goal:**

To promote measures for the welfare of juveniles in prisons of KPK, particularly Central Prison Peshawar and Central Prison Haripur.

#### **Objectives:**

1. To promote enabling environment for juveniles in Central Prison Peshawar and Haripur.
2. To build capacity of the stakeholders on human rights, child rights / protection and Juvenile Justice System.
3. To carry out advocacy and sensitization for the rights of juveniles and prison reforms.

**Objective 1:**

To promote enabling environment for juveniles in central prison Peshawar and Haripur, SHARP-Pakistan performed the following activities:

- Need-based renovation of facilities to juveniles in Central Prison Haripur.
- Provision of 200 educational, health and hygiene kits to juveniles of Central Prison Peshawar and Haripur.
- Establishment of skill training labs in two jails.
- Provision of legal aid to juveniles in 100 cases.
- Celebration of Universal Children's Day.

**Objective 2:**

SHARP-Pakistan proposed training for all the relevant stakeholders for achieving this objective:

- Trainings of jail staff and police officers.
- Training of probation officers.
- Training of civil society representatives, government officials, lawyers and journalists.

**Objective 3:**

To advocate and sensitize the rights of juveniles and prison reforms, SHARP-Pakistan undertook the following activities:

- Advocacy on / for prison reforms and Borstal Act through holding provincial conference of stakeholders and legislators.
- Sensitization of community, rights-holders and stakeholders at large through effective media campaign for the rights of juveniles.
- Street theatre and publication of IEC material.

## Core Program 4 – Education in Emergencies



Distribution of furniture for Afghan refugee school

Since the beginning, SHARP-Pakistan has strived to ensure that those affected by disasters, whether they be natural or otherwise, have access to the basic necessities that are every human's right. One of these rights include education.



As an extension of our belief and efforts to empower the youth of the nation through education, we believe that an infrastructure for education is more crucial in an emergency or crisis situation than under normal, stable circumstances. This is because education in emergencies can help to:

- Provide a sense of normality.
- Restore hope through access to the 'ladder' of education.
- Support psychological healing from traumatic experiences through structured social activities in a 'safe space'.
- Provide protection for marginalized groups – minorities, girls, children with disability, out-of-school adolescents – often at risk of exploitative or unsafe work such as prostitution or recruitment by militias.

## INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING

### Staff Meetings

Staff meetings are held regularly to discuss progress, challenges and staff issues & concerns.



Participating SHARP-Pakistan staff at the workshop

One of the more notable workshops regarding the capacity building initiatives undertaken by SHARP-Pakistan this year was the one-day staff capacity building training.

Managers and staff members from all regions covered by SHARP-Pakistan's operations participated in the event.



## International Exposure

### UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations 2015

SHARP-Pakistan is extremely proud of Ms. Zainab Raza Jafri, a female lawyer from one of our ALAC teams, for being chosen as the Rapporteur for sharing the closing remarks at the UNHCR – NGO Annual Consultations 2015 event held from 1st – 3rd July in Geneva, Switzerland.

In her speech, Ms. Jafri reiterated on the points discussed during the convention, and emphasised on implementing the solutions that had been discussed. She pointed out that while the system may not be broken, it is by no means perfect, and there is certainly room for improvement; and that it is worth the effort to do what it takes to introduce and implement new solutions to existing problems faced by NGOs all over the world.

A complete copy of her speech can be found on the UNHCR website, on the link below:

<https://icvnetwork.org/resources/unhcr-ngo-2015-annual-consultations-rapporteur-closing-remarks>

### The 8th Annual High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges 2015

The event took place on the 16th and 17th of December, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on the theme 'Understanding and addressing root causes of displacement.' Ms. Zainab Raza Jafri represented SHARP-Pakistan in this event as well.

In a mix of plenary sessions, debate, thematic discussions and side events, the Dialogue fostered an exchange of views on the understanding of causes of conflict-related displacement, the potential of humanitarian action, the drivers of onward movements, newly developing root causes of displacement and actions to prevent, address and resolve them. A debate discussed the strong interlinkage of prevention and protection. Two side events took place, one on the importance of oral histories and gathering refugees' narratives, the other on the impact of criminal violence on displacement in Central America.

The Dialogue brought together delegations from 90 countries, 68 NGOs, and 28 IGOs as well as academics and experts. In total, some 570 people participated, making it the largest Dialogue to date.



## RRN-Pakistan



Refugee Rights Network (RRN-Pakistan) was established in the year 2015 by a group of non-governmental organizations including; children and women trust, Union Aid, Rights Now Pakistan, HRA Pakistan and SHARP-Pakistan. RRN-Pakistan is a part of Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) in Pakistan and contributes towards through various activities.

RRN-Pakistan envisions protective environment for refugees in Pakistan. It is an initiative of national organizations and human rights activists, serving as a consortia for well coordinated and effective advocacy at higher level regarding refugee rights through networking, information sharing, capacity building of relevant stakeholders and coordination among institutions in promoting refugee protection throughout Pakistan.

RRN-Pakistan launching ceremony was held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2015, which was inaugurated by Mr. Indrika Ratwatte Country Representative UNHCR-Pakistan. During his key note speech, he appreciated the support provided by the government of Pakistan to the refugees over the period of three decades. He also commended the hospitality of people of Pakistan towards Afghan refugees. He iterated the importance and need for collaborated and concerted efforts by Pakistani civil society organizations working for the promotion and protection of rights of refugees, as it can prove to be an effective tool to improve advocacy initiatives concerning refugees in Pakistan. He also stressed on the need for distinguishing the actual refugees from other immigrants and having an effective border management system in Pakistan. He welcomed the establishment of Refugee Rights Network and emphasized that the network members should enhance the coordination and information sharing mechanism for better response to the refugee issues. He concluded his address by emphasizing the need for an efficient border management system and refugee specific national legislation in Pakistan, a concrete and sustainable mechanism to sustainably reintegrate the repatriating Afghans in Afghanistan and collaborated and concerted efforts by the civil society organizations for enhanced advocacy for the rights of the refugees.

Mr. Akram Zaki former foreign secretary and other speakers also spoke and appreciated the establishment of network.

Syed Liaqat Banori Chairman SHARP-Pakistan and Chair Refugee Rights Network also founding member appreciated the dignitaries for their valuable support and participation for launching the network. He also thanked the embassies of Afghanistan, USA, and Friends of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), partners and media.

### Highlights of RRN-Pakistan Launch



*Syed Liaqat Banori is an elected Chair by executive committee for this network in Pakistan for the next two years till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017.*

Website: [www.rrn.pk.org](http://www.rrn.pk.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RRN.Pakistan/](https://www.facebook.com/RRN.Pakistan/)

Dailymotion: [www.dailymotion.com/RRN\\_Pakistan](http://www.dailymotion.com/RRN_Pakistan)



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