



**Annual Report**  
**2016**

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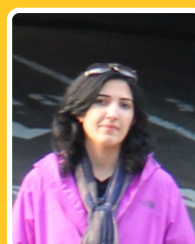
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**Compiled & Edited By:**



Syed Hameed Ullah

**Report Design & Layout By:**



Aasia Niazi

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you the Annual Report of SHARP-Pakistan for the year 2016. Our team's commitment to cause and dedication to work made it possible. I am thankful to all of them.

SHARP-Pakistan is committed to extend its services to the destitute and deprived segments of the society through its dedicated team. Our struggle for the promotion and protection of human rights has been spanning over for more than decade now. 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. Though we are collaborating with civil society in contributing our share to the improvement in the human rights' situation; however, there remains much to do.

Pakistan has countless issues but rule of law, governance and transparency issues are on the top which are derailing the system and causing the empowerment of no state actors and other institutions. This country has witnessed frequent martial laws and has been subject of many other internal and external factors which has institutionally destabilised the country and now at the time when we have all good legal mechanisms and functional constitution but still lack proper implementation mechanisms which has created a big vacuum in public issues and government response. This country despite having all the capacity and resources is not progressing because our state institutions are weak our system is not properly functioning our political leadership is not visionary and our public is not educated. Poverty illiteracy and feudal system are the reasons of slow growth of the country.

There are lots of efforts to uplift and bring change in the institutions but it is not possible because most of the actions are taken by the donors keeping in view their own interests rather realising local needs and requirements. It is very much possible that the donors and civil society sit and discuss the local issues, prioritise and start working on most important issues engaging local organizations and institutions. It is dire need to revisit the implementation mechanisms for effective implementation and timely response. In a country when a person gets justice after 23 years and that also after his death without the knowledge of the justice system that the accused has expired two years back in judicial custody speaks high about the available system we have in our country. These system needs rebuilding and for rebuilding only awareness is not enough it needs practical steps. SHARP has the credit that it is playing its role through various means including advocacy and particularly through legal magazine Al-Qanoon and is regularly highlighting national issues for the betterment of the people of this country. However, we need collective engagement and in this regard, international community support is very much important.

I would take this opportunity to thank SHARP's well-wishers, SHARP's donors including UNHCR and the government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN). I would also like to extend my gratitude to government departments such as judiciary, police/Federal Investigation Agency, disaster management authorities, and health. SHARP is also grateful to Pakistani media and civil society for their trust and

*Mr. Banori is a professional lawyer of Islamabad High Court, human rights' activist and the Chairman of SHARP-Pakistan. He is also the Chief Editor of "Al-Qanoon",*



*Pakistan's first legal magazine. Al-Qanoon's articles were presented as reference in the court of law in many cases.*

*Mr. Banori has over 25 years' experience in human rights and rule of law. He is a well-known columnist. He shares his thoughts on television and in leading newspapers on Pakistan's various socio-political issues. The national and international forums touch base Mr. Banori for consultations to take benefit from his experience in development, humanitarian and rule of law on a regular basis. He has the honour of the prestigious presidential "Defender of Human Rights" award for his commitment and dedication to human rights and services towards humanity.*

support in helping SHARP realize its humanitarian and compassionate spirit in helping the marginalized segments of the society. Last but not the least, I would like to appreciate the commitment and dedication of my staff, volunteers and associates who didn't spare any effort to help the destitute, distressed and marginalized segments of our society and made it all possible.

**Syed Liaqat Banori**

### Few Glimpses of the year 2016



Protection Officer Ms. Gowendoline Manesha participated in celebration of World Refugee Day 2016.

Mr. Oscar Mundia (Head of Office Peshawar) participated in Public Prosecutors training, Peshawar.

## FROM THE DESK OF VICE CHAIRMAN

*The Vice Chairman 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 practices, and ensures quality and excellence across the program at all levels.*

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



### Greetings everyone!

Working with SHARP-Pakistan is intensive, educational, and rewarding experience for me. My responsibilities are wide and diverse. My responsibility is to keep regular liaison with communities, partners, government institutions, and other relevant stakeholders, both national and international organizations, diplomats, and international community. I also conduct capacity building trainings with police officials, public prosecutors and judiciary, which allowed me to learn more from their institutional culture, share common experiences and translate learning into our work settings.

I would like to extend my appreciation to SHARP team for the amazing work they do across Pakistan. They successfully completed 100% targets for the year 2016 in time. The endless hours that you all have worked together, the professionalism that you have showed has immensely impressed me. We are honoured having you as our team members. Our energetic team of 145 dedicated professionals works round the clock to deliver result-oriented legal aid assistance and quality services to thousands of beneficiaries all over Pakistan. Hats off my dear colleagues for the concrete results you achieved in 2016!

We want to express our salutation, appreciation and gratitude to Police department, Judiciary, Public Prosecutors, Lawyers, Media, Commissionerate for Afghan refugees, international community and other relevant stakeholders for their support, which helped us to reach out to a maximum number of communities and provide them with timely services.

We are thankful to UNHCR Country Director Mr. Indrika Ratawate, Ms. Sophia Javaid, Mr. Yasir Ayaz Khan and all UNHCR, ECHO and ICMC colleagues for their consistent support, continuous guidance and effective collaboration.

I am very much grateful to SHARP Chairman, Syed Liaqat Banori. He supported me remarkably. He has infused faith in me; the faith that I have shown in my work; the confidence to achieve much in limited time and under pressure. You have been a very good friend, a unique philosopher, and a practical guide for me. "Nothing can measure the amount of wisdom and experience that I have drawn from you Sir". Apart from professionalism and decision making, the most important thing I've have learnt from Mr. Banori is how to be a good human being and leader with a vision.

SHARP-Pakistan is engaged in moulding and shaping communities so that they are able to take on challenges of the present and future. We present to you a brief overview of our achievements and accomplishments during 2016 and sincerely hope that your gracious support and encouragement would help us improve upon our humanitarian initiatives.

**Muhammad Mudassar Javed**

## FROM THE DESK OF PROJECT DIRECTOR, KPK REGION

*Ms. Batool has dedicated over a decade of her services to SHARP-Pakistan, and is one of our committed colleagues. She is SHARP's spot-on asset, and a true professional. She has pleasant personality. She is known in SHARP as a person who will not only go an extra mile herself, but will also motivate her team to follow her in doing so. 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. She has excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Other than SHARP, some of her most notable experiences include Gender Specialist for the Government of Punjab and Advocate High Court Lahore.*



### Dear Colleagues,

As I began to compose this letter, I realized how quickly my time has passed as a member of this organization. It has been a journey with many rewarding moments, as well as some challenges. I am honoured to be Project Director of SHARP KP Region, and leading a wonderful team. This leadership is a tribute to the success and stability of SHARP, and to the belief in the importance of our goal for which we are working in coordination with our stakeholders over so many years. Personally, I am truly humbled to lead the incredibly talented and dedicated staff working for this organization.

The 2016 was another successful year for SHARP. It has been rewarding for me to witness how we overcame all the challenges in achieving our goals, which enabled us to improve our competitiveness and create value for the organization. Start of the year was very tough with the mass arrests and extortions of person of concerns due to security situation after the Army Public School incident and the attack on the Charsadda University. Timely interventions and vigorous efforts by the teams combined with successful coordination with relevant stakeholders and much needed cooperation by the senior management made sure that the person of concerns receives assistance in a timely manner.

Attending Basic International Humanitarian Workshop in Thailand arranged by UNHCR was a wonderful experience of 2016; representatives from eighteen countries from different NGOs, UN organizations and government agencies participated in the workshop. It was an excellent learning experience for me.

I am committed to continuing the proud tradition of SHARP as a purpose-led organization, calling on the great range and diversity of our organization's capabilities and the team's talent. We are committed to continuing working relationship with government of Pakistan, UNHCR, ECHO and other stakeholders in 2017 and beyond.

**Memoona Batool Khan**

## 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) in 1999. It's registration number is VSWA/ICT/300.

SHARP-Pakistan is striving for a human rights friendly Pakistan by working for well-being of vulnerable segments of the society through advocacy, community services, capacity building, emergency response to refugees, internally displaced people (IDP), extremely vulnerable women, juvenile delinquents, street children, prisoners etc. SHARP thematic areas include protection, child protection, emergency response, advocacy, education, infrastructure development, and healthcare throughout Pakistan. With its head office in Islamabad, SHARP has liaison and field offices in Lahore, Karachi, Mianwali, Peshawar, Mardan, Haripur and Batkhela (Malakand).

SHARP-Pakistan focuses on ensuring protection, education and capacity building. Our goal is to provide equal opportunities to the deprived segments of the society through improved access to justice. SHARP concentrates on the promotion of human rights and access to justice through developing linkages and narrowing the gap between the deprived segments of society and government institutions such as law enforcement agencies, judiciary, police, and other relevant government departments. We make them accountable to the protection needs of the extremely vulnerable segment of society through provision of speedy justice.

### Our Vision

SHARP envisions a human rights friendly Pakistan indiscriminative of cast, creed, colour, sex, ethnicity and nationality.

### Our Mission

SHARP aspires to pursue its humanitarian vision by forging strategic partnerships with like-minded humanitarian community, both national and international, protect and empower the marginalized and deprived communities in a bid to garner a socially just and enabling society.

### Our Goal

Eradicate injustice from the society through raising awareness on and promotion of human rights with special focus on refugees, prisoners, labourers and other extremely vulnerable population at large.

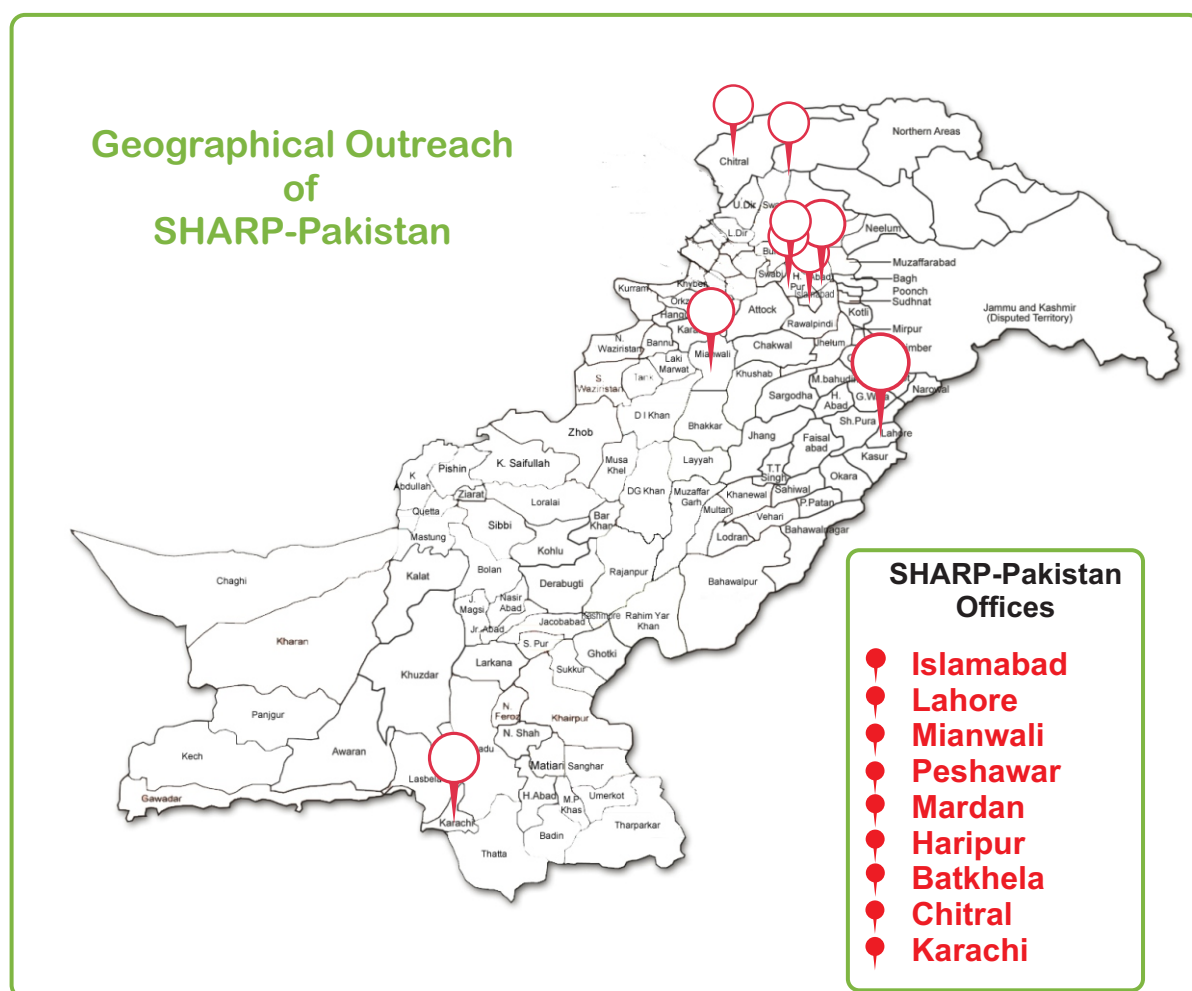
### Our Objectives

- Increased awareness on human rights;
- Legal empowerment, legal aid, legal assistance and legal reforms;
- Promote child protection and juvenile justice;
- Support formal and informal access to justice;
- Networking and policy dialogue
- Promote and support safe migration; reduce human trafficking;
- Promote positive social behaviour by encouraging health, hygiene and WASH education;

- Promote volunteerism through meaningful youth participation.
- Develop human capital through formal and informal education, skill development and vocational trainings.
- Strengthen emergency response through working closely with DRRs.

### Geographical Outreach

SHARP-Pakistan advocates for the rights of the deserving and distressed individuals and communities across Pakistan. SHARP head office is in Islamabad. SHARP is currently implementing refugees' protection, child protection, capacity building, and awareness raising projects in Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), and Sindh provinces with support from UNHCR and ECHO. These projects are managed by the field offices shown in the below map.



The Islamabad office also oversees operations in Rawalpindi. Though there is immediate need of protection services for Afghan refugees in Azad Kashmir and many districts in Punjab province; however, SHARP does not cover these locations due to lack of funding.

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

### Team Leaders 2016

Team leaders for the year 2016 are as follows:

### Team Leaders 2016

#### ISLAMABAD



Najma Abbasi  
ALAC



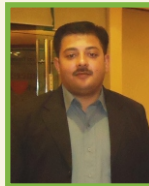
Ansa Nizam  
RSD

#### LAHORE



Hamid Latif

#### MIANWALI



Imran Khan

#### KARACHI



Sikander  
Mahmood

#### PESHAWAR



Asad Afridi

#### KOHAT



Ghias Gilani

#### MARDAN



Faizan Ali  
Khan

#### HARIPUR



Muhammad  
Rafiq

#### CHITRAL



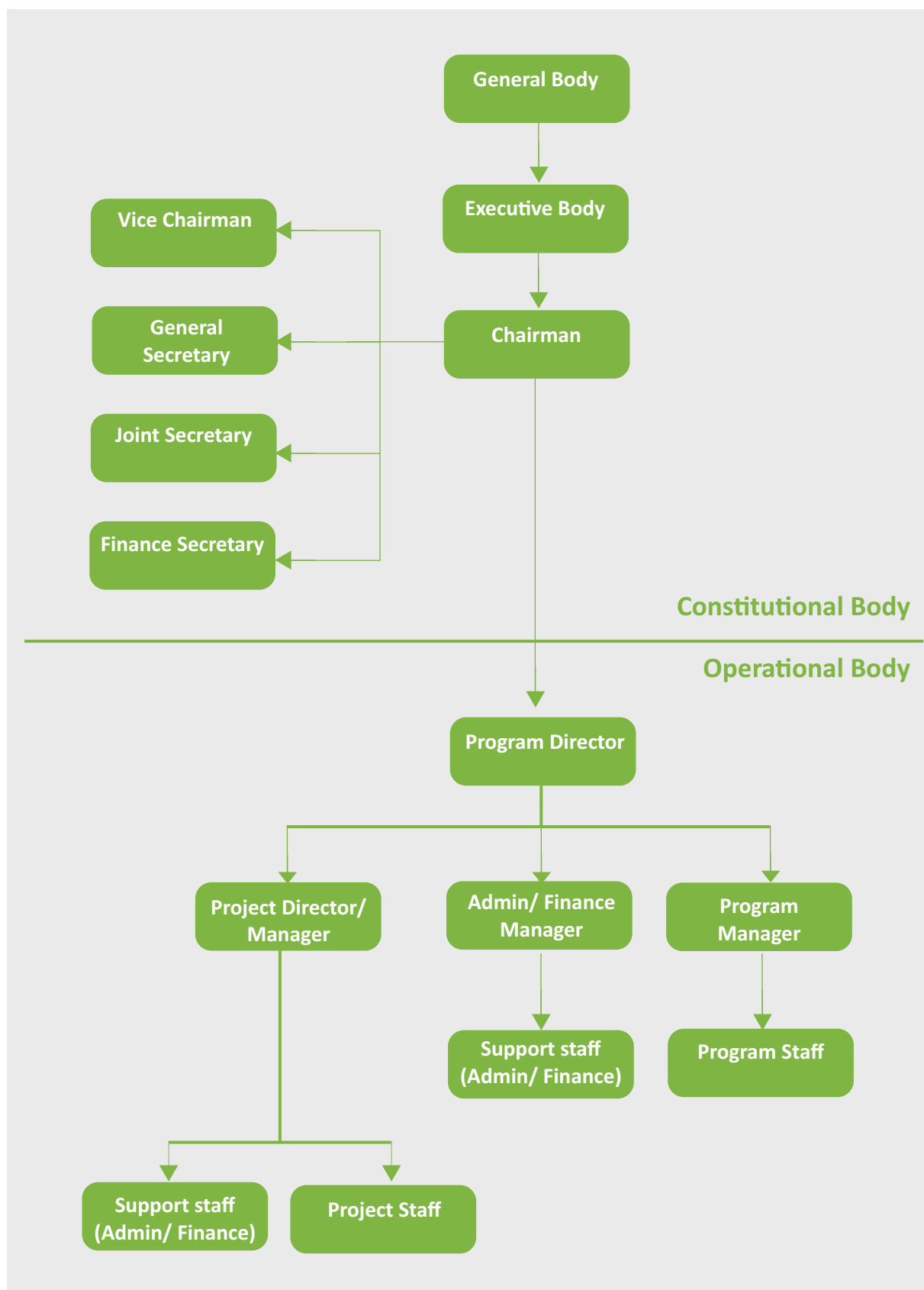
Sajjad Ahmed

#### BATKHELA



Asif Ali

## GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT



## 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

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.



### CHILD PROTECTION

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.



### EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

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.

## Core Program 1 – Protection

The Legal Assistance Program (LAP) is the key intervention of SHARP core programs; that SHARP implements in accordance with UNHCR's refugee protection SOPs. The LAP program comprises of two units - the Advice and Legal Aid Center (ALAC) and the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) unit.

In 2016, 44,025 individuals directly benefitted from the LAP; mostly legal aid and assistance in harassment and detention cases, civil matters, and child protection. SHARP also sensitized refugee communities on various issues to enable them to make informed and timely decisions for stay in Pakistan and/or voluntary repatriation. The two components of legal assistance programme cater to the needs of extremely vulnerable refugees in a holistic manner and compliment the activities of one another in an integrated fashion.



### Advice and Legal Aid Center (ALAC)

SHARP is operating Advice and Legal Aid Centers (ALAC) in Islamabad/Rawalpindi, and certain districts of Sindh, Punjab and KP provinces. The goal of ALAC is to provide legal assistance and facilitate repatriation through information and sharing procedures. In each location, SHARP conducts activities through a competent team of lawyers who are well-versed with current governing laws and legal developments in Pakistan, jurisprudence of local courts and human rights institutions. Main activities of ALAC are:

- ☐ Provide free advice and legal aid to Afghan and other refugees and asylum seekers and assist them in courts in illegal arrests and detentions;
- ☐ 14 Foreigners Act cases;
- ☐ Persons charged under Preventive Law (55/109, 107/151, 118);
- ☐ Family cases, tenancy disputes and recovery suits;

Through ALAC, SHARP oriented refugee communities on their rights through regular community sessions, focused group discussions, shura meetings and legal camps. The purpose is to raise their awareness and sensitize them about new developments that can affect their lives. SHARP provides effective socio-legal support to refugee communities in harassment, detention and extortion situations.

ALAC team liaison with relevant government stakeholders and other service providers such as law enforcement agencies, judiciary, law faculties, government departments, NGOs and jail authorities. The ALAC team arranges sensitization sessions, training workshops and help build the capacity of the stakeholders.

### Legal Camps/Shura Meetings

The legal camps/shura meetings are the main source of communication between refugees and the ALAC team. The SHARP legal team conducts awareness sessions at refugees' doorsteps from time to time or as the need arises. The main purpose of these visits is to approach refugees who are unable to access ALAC due to various reasons. The

ALAC facilitates them at their doorsteps in timely fashion.

The visits help identify current issues and problems pertaining to refugees. The issues are addressed through on the spot provision of services referral and linkages development. In 2016, the ALAC assisted 11,254 refugees through legal camps in AJK, ICT, Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



## Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

Refugee Status Determination (RSD) is one of UNHCR's core programs. SHARP is assisting UNHCR in:-

- ☐ Identification of asylum seekers;
- ☐ Conduct protection need Assessment (PNAs);
- ☐ Applicant's registration with UNHCR;
- ☐ Applicants' counselling;
- ☐ Household visits and verification;
- ☐ Applicants' profiling



SHARP follows UNHCR's standard operating procedures in RSD determination, and after careful review submit the cases to the UNHCR for information. This is pertinent to note that the decision determining whether a person seeking international protection is considered a refugee under international/regional/national laws or not remains with UNHCR. The RSD department caters to the protection needs of the refugees/asylum seekers by registering them with UNHCR for assessment of their protection needs and determination of their eligibility for access to durable solutions. SHARP provides preliminary registration of the asylum seekers and acts as a link and correspondent between UNHCR and refugees. In addition, the RSD department provides logistic facilities to asylum seekers for presentation at UNHCR.

In September 2016, UNHCR-Pakistan changed its policy regarding RSD and RST. Now UNHCR is entertaining the RSD/RST cases of non-Afghan refugees only. Afghans who are availing their International Protection in Pakistan are registered through Initial Screening Form Interview (ISF).

## Capacity Building and Awareness Raising

Capacity building is crucial in order to ensure provision of services to beneficiaries effectively including human rights to the marginalized segments of the society. This will help build create a society that is free from violence.

Stakeholders' capacity building is SHARP's regular feature since 1990. In 2016, SHARP-Pakistan organized capacity-building events in various locations and trained 1,082 officials from law enforcing agencies, police officials, judiciary, public prosecutors (PP), lawyers and local authorities on human and refugee rights, International Law, refugee policies in Pakistan, human trafficking and smuggling and SGBV.



### Capacity Building of Police

Police play a vital role in ensuring the safety and security, protecting peoples' rights in the society. To provide better services that needs standard training to increase understanding and knowledge in fulfilling responsibilities. Pakistan is the state party of major human rights instruments with the obligations to implement these instruments in true letter and spirit.



SHARP organized 20 training workshops on human and refugee rights, and International Law and trained 778 police officials in ICT, Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province during 2016. The SHARP trainings increased their knowledge and understanding of human and refugee rights that resulted in performing their duties in a better way. The police department appreciated the trainings and asked for more training in future.

As a guest of honor, Mr. Ijaz Bajwa, SSP Operations Counter Terrorism Karachi thanked SHARP and UNHCR for conducting sensitization training for Karachi police on 29th March. He highlighted the role and responsibilities of law enforcement agencies specially the police officials who owed big responsibility in making society crime free and advised the training participants to play their role for maintaining peace. He appreciated the hard work of police. He owed that they all will continue to play their role in eradicating crimes from the society and making Pakistan a peaceful place.

### Training for Public Prosecutors

The capacity building of PPs is vital along with other law enforcement agencies. They play a huge role in ensuring human rights within the society; and that they are enjoying their basic rights. In 2016, SHARP organized 5 capacity building workshops in which 160 PPs in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provinces were trained on human and

refugee rights, International Laws, Pakistan's refugee policies, human trafficking and smuggling. Such types of trainings were highly appreciated by the participants of these trainings. According to them, these trainings have well equipped them on international standard of information and knowledge and learned a lot about new things.

### Training and sensitization for Local authorities on GBV

Gender Based Violence (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. This form of discrimination causes untold miseries, cutting lives short and leaving countless women living in pain and fear. Violence against women stops them from fulfilling their potential, restricts economic growth and undermines development. GBV can only be eliminated by addressing discrimination, promoting women's equality and empowerment, and ensuring that women's human rights are fulfilled. SHARP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Team organized "Capacity Building Workshop" for refugee communities, local authorities and district administrations to reduce GBV issue especially in refugee communities. SHARP trained 471 individuals through community sessions and Focussed Group Discussions in refugee villages and urban settlements.



### Coordination meetings with various stakeholders

Coordination with relevant stakeholders is SHARP's strength. SHARP actively coordinates its activities with different relevant stakeholders to effectively implement its program and avoid wastage of time and resources. SHARP successfully achieved its targets of 2016 mainly due to effective coordination with donors, government and refugee communities. SHARP conducted a number of coordination meetings. A few are mentioned below.

#### Meeting with Deputy Director FIA

SHARP-Pakistan Project Director Mr. Mohammad Mudassar Javed held meeting with Deputy Director FIA Mr. Shahid Iqbal Gondal on 19th April at FIA Headquarters in Islamabad. Mr. Javed highlighted the role of SHARP-Pakistan's with regards to the provision of protection services to refugees and asylum seekers and build a partnership with stakeholders in facilitating the government of Pakistan's policy for registered Afghans in Pakistan to legally stay.

#### Meeting with SP Faisalabad

The ALAC team also held a meeting with SP Mr. Ali Waseem in Faisalabad, Punjab.



### Community Services

Community services team including a female doctor assisted vulnerable communities through counselling. Below beneficiaries were assisted through different channels:-

- Ø Total number of patients dealt were 816 Individuals;
- Ø 236 cases referred for free medical tertiary care services including free medicines/free consultations and free surgeries;
- Ø 504 individuals benefited from Psychological and medical counselling sessions;
- Ø 57 houses were visited to assist vulnerable cases;
- Ø 791 individuals benefited from SHARP's psycho social counselling;
- Ø 1,268 individuals benefited from SHARP's Medical counselling.

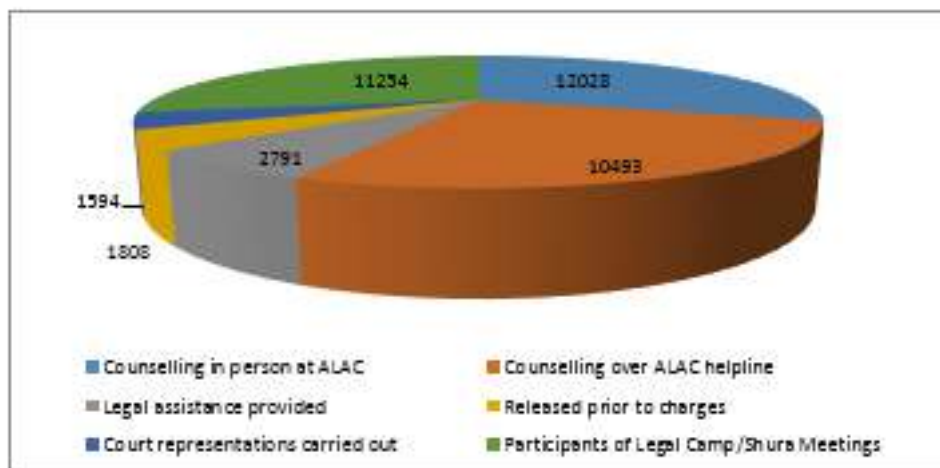


SHARP's team meeting with Commissioner and Project Director of Afghan Refugees in Sindh, Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Agha.

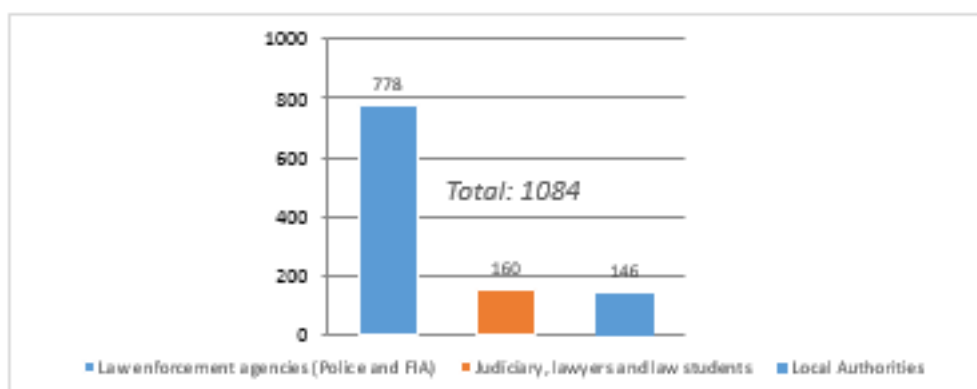
## Summary and Statistics

Various activities throughout the year helped SHARP realise its ambitions and made a positive impact on the communities we are working with. Please see our statistics for the year 2016 below:

### Advice and Legal Aid Centers



### Sensitization and Training



In addition, 47 Afghan refugees were provided cash grants to help them reach Islamabad for their RSD.

## Core Program 2 – Youth empowerment

SHARP focuses on the promotion of education and youth empowerment in our society. SHARP believes that the youth of today, regardless of their social status and background, will be the key factor in shaping the world of tomorrow. It is through them that we will be able to secure a better future for ourselves and for the coming generations.

This will help bridge the gaps that can fuel a sense of inequality, racism, discrimination and general unrest, rebellion amongst young people and ensure that young people are better equipped to break 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 to 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 can help building of democratic institutions – all factors that are necessary for a society to truly progress, develop and grow.



### Core Program 3 – Child Protection

SHARP-Pakistan envisions a society that is protected for children. Pakistan is a signatory to UN Convention on Rights of Children (UNCRC). Realizing its obligations, SHARP always focus on collaborative efforts in this regard and is working with relevant institutions to ensure protection of children in the society. In 2016, SHARP's core activities were IRFs, Best Interest Assessments (BIAs), Recreational activities and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). 16 FGDs were organized in different areas of Chitral, Swabi, Mardan, Haripur, Abbottabad, Kohat, Chakdara, Timergara and Upper Dir. In the below table are the activities that were carried out in 2016:-

Activity	Total Number
FGDs	16
Community Trainings	01
Staff Training	01
Recreational Events	16
Networking Meetings	24
PWSNs Facilitated	162
IRFs	14
Child Protection Cases Identified	338
Child Protection Cases referred	287
BIAs	22



### Core Program 4 – Education in Emergencies

Access to basic rights and necessities is every one's fundamental right. SHARP-Pakistan's one of the priorities is to respect and observe humanitarian principles in emergencies with special focus on education for those who are affected by disaster. SHARP makes 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.

## Other Interventions and Activities

### Celebration of International Days

In 2016, SHARP-Pakistan celebrated international days with the aim to raise awareness among communities on the importance of women and girls rights, refugee rights and to show solidarity with the marginalized segments of

society. SHARP paid tribute to the courage and resilience of the people uprooted. SHARP also sensitized relevant stakeholders to fulfil their obligations to International Instruments.

The highlights of this year's activities pertaining to providing protection, legal aid and assistance, psycho-social support, referral services, sensitization, capacity building of relevant stakeholders, coordination meetings with line departments and creating awareness are listed below:

### International Women's Day 08-March

SHARP celebrated International Women's Day in Islamabad and Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on March 8-9 to sensitize refugee communities and stakeholders to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls. Aqeela Asifi (Nansen Refugee Award winner) was the chief Guest in the Islamabad event. The event was interactive. The participants learned from each other's experiences and made commitment that they would spread the message in their communities.

### Grand Jirga

SHARP-Pakistan organized a Grand Jirga in Sindh province in collaboration with UNHCR and the Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CAR) in Sindh on March 21. This forum provided an opportunity to refugee elders to highlight their issues. They asked various questions and sought solutions to their issues. The five major concerns identified during the discussion in the Grand Jirga were related to PoR cards, Refugee Status Determination (RSD), police harassment, education, medical and financial assistance. UNHCR and CAR representatives provided information on security issues, PoR card registration, voluntary repatriation, employment opportunities and basic needs.



### World Refugee Day 20-June

SHARP-Pakistan commemorates the World Refugee Day (WRD) every year. WRD has become a big festivity for refugee communities living across Pakistan as SHARP along with UNHCR hold colorful events for them. On this WRD, SHARP-Pakistan played a vital role to engage and mobilize Afghan elders, refugee communities, refugee youth, university and college students both (male and female), CSOs and other relevant stakeholders in different capacities. SHARP-Pakistan visited colleges and universities to reach out to the maximum number of youth both Afghan and Pakistani students. Students were given orientations about WRD and were urged to make paintings on this year's theme 'Home, Displacement and Courage', the three stages through which a refugee goes when he/she flees his/her country of origin due to persecution. Refugee children represented a mime drama depicting the lives of refugees.

UNHCR along with SHARP-Pakistan celebrated World Refugee Day in Islamabad Serena Hotel on June 20 to show solidarity with refugees and gave them the message that we all stand together with them in their miserable journey of life as well as to commemorate the strength, courage, and resilience of millions of refugees. Refugees enjoyed this colourful event with heads high in which their cultural dances and songs were performed by youth talented groups for promotion of their culture. They enjoyed listening to 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.

Signature/Comment Campaign was initiated on World's Refugee Day in Lahore. The refugees raised their voices on their life in Pakistan including their grievances as well as the attitude of the law enforcement agencies. The refugees also passed their messages to the International Community with regard to their basic needs. Most of the refugees showed positive attitude towards the campaign. They raised slogans during the campaign in favour of Pakistan. They expressed their feelings that they are living happy life in Pakistan and were satisfied with the attitude of the hosting communities.

Activities reflecting Afghan culture such as fun fairs, competitions, debate, Naat , street theatre, etc. were

conducted with Afghan communities in camps and urban settlements including Shaheed Mir Fateh Muhammad Khan High School Haji Camp Peshawar, Refugee Village Baghicha Mardan, Sheikhabad Camp Mansehra and Preston University Kohat. The event was a huge success; the audience had a great time, and made new friends and acquaintances that will, without a doubt, help provide a sense of solidarity and strengthen the bonds within the communities.

### **16 days of Activism (25-Nov to 10-Dec)**

Every year SHARP celebrates the 16 days of activism with the aim to eliminate all kinds of violence and discriminations against women and girls. SHARP motivates communities and stakeholders to work towards ensuring protection to women and girls in accordance with the Universal Declaration on human rights and other international conventions on women and girls rights. This will help ensure that they live happy and healthy life and contribute positively in the development of society along with men. The theme in 2016 was “Healthy relationship at home, school and community”. SHARP organized different colourful activities in Islamabad and all major cities of Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with youth, women, girls and people from all walks of life including minorities and persons with disabilities. Through awareness walks, competitions of Naat, debate, speech, Mehndi, drawing, face painting, art and sports, SHARP raised awareness among children, youth, women and men on the creation of violence free and rights friendly society for women and girls.

### **World Disability Day**

Understanding diversity is one of SHARP's biggest assets. In order to unleash social potential, SHARP works towards a culture of inclusion. SHARP organized an event in collaboration with the Directorate of Social Welfare and ACTED to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities at Special Education Complex Hayatabad Peshawar on 5<sup>th</sup> December. The event included Naat, drama, songs and dance competition. The participants appreciated the initiative.

### **Drug Addict Patients**

Showing love to people who are addicted to drugs; and to communicate with them amicably can make positive changes in their lives. SHARP organized an event with drug addict patients of DOST Welfare Foundation (Rehab Center) at Sukoon Warsak Road Peshawar to raise awareness of the positive impact of rehabilitation of the marginalized people.



### **Other Interventions and Activities**

#### **Candle-lit Vigil and Banners in Solidarity with APS Peshawar**

SHARP organized public events in major cities in memory of the innocent children massacred in a cowardly terrorist attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar on December 16, 2014.

#### **Dr. Matt J. Duffy's Visit to SHARP's Islamabad Office**

Dr. Matt J. Duffy visited SHARP's Islamabad Office on May 11. He met with Chairman Mr. Liaquat Banori, Project Director Mr. Mudassar Sanghaira and other team members of ALAC and Program personnel including Najma Abbasi, Ahmed Bhatti and Asia.

Dr. Duffy is serving as Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University, United States of America. His area of specialization include Journalism and Media Law. He is also Founder of Oxford Editing, an organization serving as Academic Editing Specialists.

The Code of Ethics, Rule of Law, Freedom of Expression, Media, role of government etc. were the topics for discussion. He expressed his views on importance of latest technologies and communication tools that play a

major role in promoting social and human rights issues on national, regional and international level. He appreciated the role of SHARP-Pakistan at all levels for assistance and support to Afghan refugees.

Dr. Duffy stressed the need for using latest trends in communication in order to achieve social support to human rights and refugee issues. The collaboration between US and Pakistani human rights networks and organizations, trainings, support to SHARP and its stakeholders and prisoners' issues also came under discussion.

### **Visit of Full Bright Scholars to SHARP Islamabad office**

Two Full Bright scholars Mr. Fred Rooney and Mr. Renaldo along with team members from Peace and Justice Network, Islamabad visited SHARP-Pakistan's Islamabad office on December 27. They met SHARP staff and discussed the rule of law in Pakistan.

### **PRM Program Director Visit to SHARP Islamabad Office**

The Program Director PRM Washington DC, Refugee Coordinator and Deputy Refugee Coordinator visited SHARP Islamabad Office on November 18. The PRM staff appreciated SHARP work including Advice and Legal Aid Center (ALAC), court representations to registered refugees in Pakistan as well as awareness through Shura meeting /legal camps on Pakistani laws, registration of asylum seekers for Initial Screening Form Interview (ISF) of UNHCR.

### **British High Commission Visit to SHARP Islamabad Office**

Officials from British High Commission visited SHARP Islamabad Office. SHARP provided them an overview of its programs such as juvenile justice in Pakistan, refugee protection, provision of basic infrastructure related facilities, psycho-social support and legal aid to juvenile inmates in central prison Peshawar and Haripur. In addition, SHARP also highlighted its role with regard to advocacy and lobbying on/for prison reforms, mass media awareness campaign on/for the rights of juvenile inmates and training of stakeholders on child protection and juvenile justice.

### **Japanese Scholars Visit**

Apart from this, few Japanese scholars also paid visit to SHARP office on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016.



### **Revival of Al-Qanoon (The Law) – A Social and Legal Awareness Magazine**

Al-Qanoon is Pakistan's first ever magazine that explores and raises social issues in the light of legal rights of the citizens. It emphasizes on the importance of knowledge of the people regarding their legal and constitutional rights. Al-Qanoon has resumed its publications after almost eight years. Al-Qanoon is not a simple magazine but a mission for a cause. The mission of Al-Qanoon is legal empowerment and awareness about human rights at grass root level. Al-Qanoon being the only legal magazine in the country is the source of networking among different stakeholders including lawyers, judges, CSOs, international organizations, government agencies, international community and public at large on legal social and political issues. It has been imparting education on legal empowerment as well as highlighting the issues pertaining to public rights for awareness purposes.

### **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 throughout Pakistan.

SHARP-Pakistan works at grass root level and thus has been instrumental to raise public awareness and preparedness in 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.

SHARP conducted variety of activities to ensure that the issues of affectees are addressed effectively during emergencies. SHARP-Pakistan established various 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.

### **National Consultation on Refugee Rights by RRN-Pakistan**

Refugee Rights Network (RRN-Pakistan) was established in the year 2015 by a group of non-governmental organizations such as 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 through various activities.

RRN-Pakistan envisions a 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.

National Consultation on Refugee Rights was organized on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 at Islamabad Hotel in Islamabad.

### **Internal Capacity Building**

#### **Code of Conduct Training**

SHARP-Pakistan's staff was provided training on the code of conduct to keep high values in their working environment in Islamabad, Lahore, Mianwali and Karachi.

#### **Training on Counseling Techniques**

The training on Counseling Techniques was held at UNHCR Office in Islamabad. Three female lawyers from SHARP-Pakistan participated in training. The main purpose of the training was to build the capacity of implementing partner staff for efficient and accurate counselling of the vulnerable refugee to provide satisfaction to the individual cases in their trauma and healing stage.

#### **Other trainings**

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa team was trained on SGBV, Child Protection, Community based protection, International Protection and Advocacy techniques with the aim to build their capacity in the above-mentioned topics that would help them in the field to identify vulnerable cases along with provision of psycho-social support and legal assistance to them.

#### **Staff Meetings**

Staff meeting is a regular feature of SHARP. Meetings are conducted on monthly basis and on need basis at the headquarters as well as in field offices in which monthly progress, achievements and challenges are discussed. Actions are taken on the decisions made in the meetings for making better and smooth running of projects.



### **Attorneys of Human Rights Pakistan**

Pakistan, as a member of The United Nations and signatory to various international conventions regarding Human Rights, has, so far ratified eight international Conventions:

- (1) *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948,*
- (2) *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1966,*

- (3) *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1990*  
 (4) *Convention of all Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1996*  
 (5) *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 2008*  
 (6) *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 2008*  
 (7) *Convention against Torture (CAT) 2010*  
 and  
 (8) *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2011.*

The overall efforts made by Pakistan in relation to Human Rights are not enough to improve its image in the International community. The safeguards that it provides its citizens are not enough and are criticized by international Human Rights watchdogs.

There is a need of greater accountability on the part of our judiciary, law enforcement agencies and the legal fraternity to bring forth and address any violation of human rights. The community has a lacklustre attitude towards safeguarding the Rights of people. A series of trainings need to be conducted to sensitize the actors involved in providing justice. In this situation, it is vital to train and equip at least lawyers' community, about the importance of basic human rights, international legal framework and its compatibility with domestic legislations.

Presently, there is no existing training or educational programme in the country which sheds light on the Rights protected by law, to bring awareness to the public at large about their Rights and that these Rights must be safeguarded under all circumstances.

Even though the Government of Pakistan has created a Human Rights division under the ministry of law and justice but due to lack of resources, it remains unfunctional.

Hence, SHARP promulgated the idea to select, train and to establish a network of 300 Human Rights Attorneys throughout Pakistan, which will have long lasting effects on national "Human Rights" arena. The network is established with the aim to focus on the basic human rights, constitutional rights, children, women, refugees and labour/workers rights. Special efforts were made to make participants familiarize with the international obligations of Pakistan as a member of the United Nations and a State party to different conventions. They were also acquainted with the binding effect of customary international law and how the ratification of any international convention entails responsibility on the contracting States to implement the provisions.



## Success Stories

### Enrolment of Afghan Student

Afghan refugee from Chakdara Dir Lower, KP province telephonically informed SHARP that the government school administration expelled 200 Afghan students from the school as well as closed admission in new classes. The refugee elders tried to convince the head master of the school not to expel the students and to keep the school doors open for all children but the head master did not listen to them. They elders were worried about the education of their children. They contacted SHARP team for assistance.

SHARP Mardan team held meeting with the head master Mr. Ali Rehman and discussed the issue. The head master quoted the “Daily Mashriq” instructions issued by the government Education Department to government schools to expel Afghan students from their schools. SHARP met with Education Officers in Timergara Dir Lower including DEO Operation but he did not resolve the issue. The ALAC team visited Education department Peshawar and met with government DEO establishment. The DEO establishment verbally directed the head master to resolve the issue; however, he asked for instructions in writing. The DEO refused to give him directions in written. After that, The SHARP KP team met with Director Education and plead that education is the right of every child irrespective of nationality, race, religion and status. The Director immediately contacted the concern DEO who has given the notices to all Afghan students for expulsion and discussed the matter. The concern DEO and school administration retained the 200 students enrolled in the school and started fresh admissions in the schools.



### SHARP Helps Extend 15 days Relaxation to Refugees

The government Irrigation Department issued a notice to Jurma refugee settlement in district Kohat to vacate the land. Jurma was the old refugee camp but now it is a refugee settlement where 70 refugee families are residing. The Irrigation Department claims that 25 feet from one side and 35 feet from the other side of the canal area belongs to the government. The department claimed that the refugee houses are built on the government land and that it comes under encroachment. The government issued a notice to Afghan refugees to vacate the land within 3 days otherwise, they will demolish their houses.

The ALAC team met with Zille Dar and Sub Divisional Officer (SDO) Irrigation. SHARP made a request The SDO Irrigation department agreed and both Zilla Dar and a representative of irrigation department and SHARP staff member visited the area. A proper demarcation was conducted on May 21. The department extended 15-day time to demolish the houses.

## Success Stories.....continued

### Protection provided to female

Mr. Khan a registered Afghan refugee is living with his 16 years old sister Naseema in Attock city. His small family of two members was facing life threat. They were orphans. Police detained Khan because he had not registered himself as a tenant under the government new policy for Afghan refugees. The life of the family became worst especially of his young sister. Apart from life threat, now she had security threat because everyone in the area knew that she is alone in the house.

SHARP-Pakistan team realized the sensitivity of matter as well as their organization's mission to protect dignity and safety of the young woman living in a vulnerable situation. The international commitment and instruments regarding women and human rights also invite us to intervene in such situation. SHARP realized the situation and intervened. Initially the police were reluctant to release Mr. Khan. At the same time SHARP was also taking care of Naseema who was alone at home to make sure that she is protected. SHARP-Pakistan pursued the case with reference to laws and notification issued by government to registered Afghan in Pakistan.

Finally, the police were convinced and they released Mr. Khan without of charge on early intervention basis. SHARP-Pakistan thanks police for respecting the Pakistani laws and providing protection to Afghan refugees.

### SHARP Resolves a Dispute between Afghans and Pakistani

SHARP-Pakistan/ALAC II Lahore office team resolved the dispute between Afghan Refugees and Pakistani locals on August 9. Both parties fought with each other on the issue of using local's premises in front of Lahore PCM centre of NADRA for seating by Afghan to wait for their turn in the PCM centre. The Afghan Refugees were using the premises of local people because of limited space in the PCM Centre. The locals had prohibited Afghan refugees by using their premises. It turned into severe fight that resulted in injuries of both groups. The police reached on the spot, arrested the both sides and detained them in Police Station (PS) Sabza Zar.

SHARP team held a meeting with Mr. Abbas Shah SHO PS Sabza Zar. He told the SHARP team that he would lodge First Information Report (FIR) against both parties involved in the brutal fighting - tearing of clothes, skull injuries. The owner of the plaza also came to the police station. The Team also held a meeting with the owner along with the SHO. After a long discussion, SHARP succeeded in resolving the issue without any criminal charge against the Afghan refugees. SHARP thus released Afghan refugees without being charged.



## PROJECT & LIAISON OFFICES

### ISLAMABAD

House No. 2, Postal Colony, CMT Road, Golra Morr, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Ph: +92-51-2315171-2, 2315132

Fax: +92-51-2315094

Helpline: +92-334-1112004

### PESHAWAR

H. No 253, Hadi lane, Opposite VIP Guest House, University Town, Peshawar, Pakistan.

Ph: +92-91-5712102 / 5712020

Helpline: +92-315-5009504

### LAHORE

House # 365, Pak Block, Allama Iqbal Town, Lahore, Pakistan.

Ph: +92-42-37800710-11

Fax: +92-42-37803160

Helpline: +92-334-1112005

### HARIPUR

Nawaz House, Street # 1, Near Railway Crossing, Talokar Road, Haripur, Pakistan.

Ph: +92-995-612023

Helpline: +92-315-5009501

### MIANWALI

House # 5/A, Rehman Street, Usama Garden Muslim Colony, Mianwali, Pakistan.

Ph: +92-459-232237

Fax: +92-459-232236

Helpline: +92-334-1112006

### MARDAN

# 162, Street # 5, Sector K, Sheikh Maltoon Town, Mardan, Pakistan.

Ph: +92-937-840379

Helpline: +92-315-5009502

### KARACHI

House No. B-204, Block 10, KDA Scheme # 24, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi, Pakistan.

Ph: +92-21-34811571

Fax: +92-21-34812184

Helpline: +92-334-1112008

### KOHAT

House No. 102, Sector No. 9, KDA, Kohat, Pakistan.

Ph: +92-992-513792

Refugee Helpline: +92-315-5009503

### BATKHELA

Mohalla Akhtar Ghundai, Batkhela, District Malakand, Pakistan.

Ph: +92-932-410133

### CHITRAL

Khan House, Opposite Jamia Masjid, Jang Bazar, Chitral, Pakistan.

Ph: +92-943-414638







Society for Human  
Rights and  
Prisoners' Aid  
(SHARP)

#### HEAD OFFICE

Address: Flat # 03, 1st Floor,  
Irfan Plaza,  
F-10 Markaz, Islamabad.  
Phone: +92-51-2211621  
Email: [info@sharp-pakistan.org](mailto:info@sharp-pakistan.org)  
Website: [www.sharp-pakistan.org](http://www.sharp-pakistan.org)



Web: [www.sharp-pakistan.org](http://www.sharp-pakistan.org)

Email: [info@sharp-pakistan.org](mailto:info@sharp-pakistan.org)



/sharp.pak



@sharp.pak