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- Representation in "Hum Se Hai Pakistan"

Editorial

We are pleased to welcome you to 2nd issue of our Monthly Newsletter.

Happy Reading!

World Refugee Day Commemoration

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

and natural disasters globally.

According to UNHCR's statistics, there are **65.3 million** displaced people on Earth. Afghans make up the **2nd largest refugee population** and mostly living in Pakistan over the period of three decades.

SHARP-Pakistan commemorates the **World Refugee Day (WRD)** every year for which interestingly the refugee communities keep asking during the field visits. WRD has become a big festivity for refugee communities living across Pakistan as SHARP-Pakistan along with UNHCR held colorful events in recent years. These celebrations and regular field visits has grown strong linkages and bonds with the refugee communities as result of its long history of working with them. This year's theme itself highlighted the meaningful objective of the celebrations which was **"We Stand Together With Refugees"**. On WRD this year, SHARP-Pakistan started a Social Media Campaign to create mass awareness regarding Refugee communities and to highlight their issues and to find durable solutions for this protracted refugee population. Different events were organized By SHARP-Pakistan at **Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Haripur, Mardan and Kohat** with students, male & females and elders to support refugee cause.

Islamabad

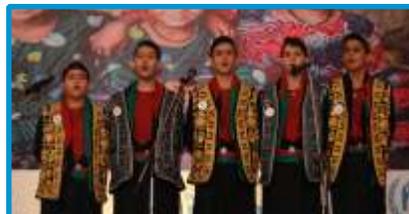


A Jirga Meeting was held at SHARP-Pakistan Islamabad office in which twenty Afghan elders participated from different localities. Elders appreciated the efforts and support being provided to them through efficient and dedicated lawyers team of SHARP-Pakistan.

SHARP-Pakistan jointly with UNHCR celebrated two events in Islamabad in which SHARP-Pakistan played a very vital role to engage and mobilize Afghan elders, communities, youth, university and college students both (male & female), CSOs and other relevant stakeholders in different capacities. SHARP-Pakistan team effortlessly 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 themes **"Home, Displacement and Courage"**, the three stages through which a refugee goes when he/she flee his/her country of origin due to fear of persecution, war or conflicts.

UNHCR along with SHARP-Pakistan celebrated World Refugee Day on 20th June, 2016 in **Islamabad** to show solidarity and to ensure refugees that we 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 colorful event with heads high in which their cultural dances and songs were performed by youth talented groups for

promotion of their culture. They were very happy listening their patriotic songs, which reminded them their homeland where they only want to witness love, peace and progress but no one can give any time frame for that development they are all waiting for since many years.



Introduction

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

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

Vacancies Available

- SHARP-Pakistan has announced two vacancies at Mianwali office for female candidates. One female Lawyer and one Female Counselor cum Interpreter. For details visit our website.

PoR Cards Extension

Ministry of SAFRON Issued Notification regarding the extension of PoR Card validity till 31st December, 2016.



Lahore



SHARP-Pakistan **Lahore Office** organized a Signature/Comment Campaign on World's Refugee Day for the Afghan refugees in their communities to give voice and representation to Afghan communities living in the area of Khizer Town Saggiyan Pul Lahore. Afghans paid tribute to Government of Pakistan and local communities for their hospitality and support provided to them by generous Pakistani people during this longer period. They also wrote their statements on WRD, which are as follows:-

Mr. Gul Khan said that he along with his family does not want to repatriate Afghanistan because of the friendly nature of the locals of host country.

Mr. Shakkir wished friendly relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Mr. Jumma Khan said that his elders are buried here and a lot of love has been given to them in Pakistan and they do not want to repatriate.

Mr. Said Muhammad is interested to repatriate but he is unable to do it because there is no security in the country of origin with less livelihood opportunities as well as insufficiency in basic services, drinking water and

Mr. Saif Ullah said that they have been waiting since long for the better future, peace, security but the condition and living situation in their homeland are really disappointed.

Peshawar



SHARP-Pakistan **Peshawar Office** conducted WRD event in Shaheed Mir Fateh Muhammad School, City Town Peshawar. Designing Mehndi (Hina) on hand,

painting and Cultural dress competitions were arranged on that day to empower women as well as encouraging their skills. Prizes were distributed among the winners. Ms. Gwendoline Mensah, Sr. protection officer UNHCR honored the event as

Hangu



Mehndi (Hena) competition event was organized for Afghan females in **Katakari camp Hangu** in which sixty female participated. This

activity to give space to learn from each other new skill with refresher and energizer for them as well. Prizes were distributed to them to high their moral with zest.

Kohat



SHARP-Pakistan **Kohat office** commemorated WRD on 31st May, 2016 in District Hangu earlier the start of Holy Month of Ramadan (Fasting). Due to cultural restrictions, male and female events were on separate locations. Representatives from UNHCR and other organizations have also participated in the events. Participants of event highlighted the importance WRD. Male school going students were given opportunity to present their speeches and Tablo etc. On the end of event, prizes were distributed to student according to their performance to encourage them to work hard for their education progress.

Mardan



SHARP-Pakistan, **Mardan Office** organized WRD event in Refugee Village Baghicha on 3rd June, 2016 in which Afghan school going students participated in debate and poem

competitions and Puppet show was also performed in it to provide recreational opportunities for the students They enjoyed and participated in these events to their fullest.

SHARP-Pakistan Haripur office arranged one-Day Study tour to Ashoka Rocks and Nathia Gali with Afghan school going Students

On 6th June, 2016, a day full of learning and recreation was arranged for school going Afghan students, during this visit students were briefed about the history and culture of the areas and orientation was given to Afghan students on the history of Ashoka rocks on which his Edicts are written. The Edicts of Ashoka are a collection of 33 inscriptions on the Pillars of Ashoka as well as boulders and cave walls made by the

Emperor Ashoka of the Mauryan Empire during his reign from 269 BCE to 232 BCE. Then the students were taken to Nathia Gali, where they performed varies activities in the ideal weather including Naat, debate (speech), quiz, race, painting and Pashto cultural songs competitions amongst them to raise their hidden abilities in them to face challenges of life with courage along with to build their competencies to bring positive change in their communities as well to ensure them that World is with them and they are not alone. Prizes and launches boxes were distributed amongst students.



High-Level Panel Discussion on New Approaches to Protracted Refugee

UNHCR in collaboration with its long-standing partner SHARP-Pakistan arranged a **high profile panel discussion** on refugee issues in Pakistan on 22nd June, 2016 in which people from all walks of life participated. Afghan elders and youth participated in abundance. The high-Level Panel consisted of six members:

1. Mr. Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner of UN Refugee Agency
2. Mr. Shehzad, Secretary of SAFRON
3. Dr. Inam-ul Haq, World Bank
4. Mr. Marc-André Franche, Country Director UNDP Pakistan
5. Mr. Afrasiab Khattak, Human Rights Activist
6. Dr. Maria Usman, Strategic Affairs Expert



SHARP-Pakistan Launched 'Provision of Integrated Protection Assistance to Afghan Refugees and Other Affected Communities'

in KPK provinces in partnership with **ICMC** with the support of **European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)**

The project aims to represent an integrated approach (protection services along with capacity building and research) to the identified needs of refugees and their host communities with a focus on women's, elderly and children's specific needs. It incorporates essential awareness and practice related to protection services and research. The intended impact is cumulative and synergetic, building on previous activities carried out by SHARP-Pakistan and creating a multiplier effect on the overall well-being of both refugees and host communities in **Peshawar, Mardan, Batkhela and Chitral** in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and conducted orientation for newly recruited 8 lawyers and 2 Admin/ Finance Assistants as staff members in Peshawar on 26th June, 2016.

Public Prosecutors capacity was enhanced

SHARP-Pakistan conducted training for Public Prosecutors on the **"International Protection, Refugee Rights & Status of Afghan Refugees"** on 4th June, 2016 at PC Hotel Peshawar, in which total **7 female and 10 male** public prosecutors participated in it. The main purpose of the training was to provide learning opportunity for the participants and to promote and protect the dignity for Afghan Refugees in context of Human Rights and International Protection and to cooperate in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race, sex,



language or religion while contributing to fair and equitable justice. Government policy and strategy regarding refugees was highlighted by Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. UNHCR was represented by Mr. Oscar, Head of Office, UNHCR Peshawar. Mr. Bashir Ahmad, Protection Officer, UNHCR delivered his presentation on mandate of UNHCR and International Protection that ensure protection to refugee throughout in the World. Training session was found interactive by Participants in which they cleared their understanding on PoR Card and its expiry, RSD Card as well as asylum procedure.

Legal Camp in urban settlement Ichini, Peshawar

SHARP-Pakistan Peshawar office, conducted a legal camp in urban refugee cluster Achini Payyan, Peshawar on 15th July, 2016. Total 264 Afghans participated in it with gender break of 174 Male and 90 Female. The main target for arranging this legal Camp was to make familiar the Afghan nationals with the most recent information and update them about the altering state of affairs such as law and order and connected Situation in the country. UNHCR representative, Mr. Fakhur Zaman delivered a detail presentation on the procedures of Voluntary Repatriation because majority of the Afghan community shown their interest in voluntary repatriation.

He responded on the quarries of refugees regarding assistance to returnees in Afghanistan, PoR Card extension, police harassment Mr. Yaseen from MoRR, Mr. Ajab from CAR Peshawar also participated in Legal Camp and addressed various queries of Afghans.



Legal Camp in RV Utmanzai, Charsadda

SHARP-Pakistan Peshawar office conducted legal camp at RV utmanzai on 1st June, 2016. Counseling was provided on **Child registration, Lost PoR procedure, renewal of PoR** to Afghan refugees and GoP policy related to them. A group during the camp showed their willingness for repatriation and asked for the procedure that was communicated accordingly.



Round Table Discussion

The round table discussion was held in UNOCHA conference room, on 27 July 2016 in Islamabad.

Syed Liaqat Banori, Chairman, SHARP-Pakistan and their Project Director participated in a Round Table Discussion with Mr. Mark Bowden (Deputy Special Representative for Secretary General United Nations)/ Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator for Afghanistan and representatives of local and international organizations working with Refugees and IDPs.

20th July, Meeting with SDC

The SDC Head of Europe, Asia and Americas Humanitarian Aid Division - Mr. Jean-Luc Bernasconi visited Pakistan and SHARP-Pakistan was invited to participate in a Thematic Discussion on the topic of Refugees. Chairman SHARP-Pakistan, Syed Liaqat Banori led the discussion and presented SHARP-Pakistan work and efforts done to facilitate refugee communities nearly two decades. SDC head appreciated the contributions of SHARP-Pakistan and welcomed the suggestions for future compliance and recommendation.

Success Story

15 days relaxation extended to Afghan refugees to wind up their household items

A notice was issued by Irrigation department to Jurma refugee cluster, Kohat regarding encroachment on their land. Jurma was the old Refugee camp but now it is a refugee cluster of around 70 families. The household of Jurma received an encroachment letter from the irrigation department. A canal flows in the Jurma cluster for which the irrigation department claims a 25-foot area from one side and 35 feet from the other side as the property of the irrigation department. The department claimed that the houses of the refugees have been built upon the encroached area, therefore, a notice was issued to the refugees to vacate the encroached land within 3 days otherwise, they shall demolish their houses. ALAC team met with the Zilla Dar and SDO concerned. They informed the team that the refugees have encroached upon Govt. land, which they have to procure. Request was made to the department that the refugees need some time to wind up their household items and secondly if the land is the Government's property than a proper survey should be conducted. The SDO Irrigation department agreed and requested the SHARP-Pakistan team to accompany them to the above-mentioned area for an official survey. On 21st of July, 2016 both Zilla Dar, the representative of the irrigation department and SHARP staff member visited the area, where a proper demarcation was conducted and the department extended 15-day time to demolish the houses. SHARP-Pakistan team successfully facilitated refugees in the Jurma Cluster.

Success Story

Expulsion of Afghan Students from School

An Afghan refugee from Chakdara, Dir Lower, KPK telephonically informed the SHARP-Pakistan team that around 200 Afghan refugee children were enrolled in the primary school No. 1 Chakdara. The Administration of the school intimated them that they will expel Afghan students from the school as well as admission is closed for Afghans in new classes. Initially, refugees tried by their best to convince the headmaster of the school to open school doors for Afghan children but he refused to agree with them. They were worried about the future and education of their children. SHARP-Pakistan team was finally contacted for assistance by them to solve that issue.

SHARP-Pakistan Mardan Team held a meeting with Mr. Ali Rehman, Head Master GPS Chakdara No.1 in Dir Lower and discussed the issue. In his response, he told the team through "Daily Mashriq" newspaper instructions were issued by the Education Department to government schools to expel Afghan students from schools and he has to implement that. The team visited various Education Officers in Temargrah including the DEO Operation but the matter was not solved. ALAC team visited the Education Department Peshawar and met with the DEO establishment. The team shared the whole issue with the concerned officials. The DEO establishment verbally communicated with the Head Master to solve the issue but he demanded that he need written instructions from him and on the other hand, the DEO was not ready to give him in written. After that, the team met with Mr. Sahibzada Hamid, Director Education and the matter was discussed with him. The team convinced him that education is the right of every child irrespective of nationality, race, religion and status. The Director office was kind enough and he supported the version of the SHARP-Pakistan team. He immediately contacted the concerned DEO who has given the notices to all Afghan students for expulsion and discussed the matter. The concerned DEO and school administration immediately retained the 200 students enrolled in the school and started fresh admissions in the schools subject to the availability of the seats.



28th July, Shura Meeting

On 28th July, a Shura meeting was organized for Afghan elders at I-12, Kachhi Abdai in Islamabad, in which SHARP-Pakistan, UNHCR and ARC participated to discuss the issues being faced by Afghans regarding protection, health and education. RAHA project coordinator Mr. Urooj and Mr. Yasir Khan were from UNHCR-Islamabad while Mr. Mudassar, Mr. Tufiq and Mr. Ahmad represented SHARP-Pakistan.

Representation on **Pakistan Television (PTV)** for the program “**Hum Se Hai Pakistan**”

Mr. Muhammad Mudassar, Project Director on Saturday, 16th July, 2016, represented SHARP-Pakistan on **Pakistan Television (PTV)** for the program “**Hum Se Hai Pakistan**”.

The objective of this talk show was to highlight the positive sides of our country and emerging opportunities for young people in Pakistan, who risk their lives to find a better future in other countries being potential human capital and adopt illegal means/routes for illegal immigration. Through this program, he also stressed the local and international community to strengthen civil society to fill the gap and raise voice for effective law and order “**prevention of illegal immigration**”.



Key Findings - for month of Jun/Jul 2016

During the month of Jun-Jul 2016, SHARP-Pakistan provided legal assistance to persons of concern, intervened at police stations for arrest/detention cases of Afghan refugees, provided in-house and out-of-court services as well as counseling over telephonic helplines. Some important figures for this month's efforts by SHARP-Pakistan team are as follows:

ICT, Punjab, AJK & Sindh

New Arrests

JUNE

26

JULY

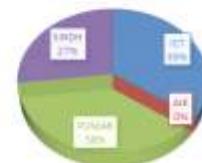
85

Follow-up cases:

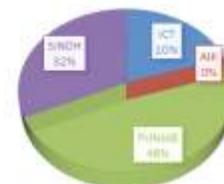
May = 11

Jun = 08

REGION WISE TREND OF NEW ARRESTS -JUN 2016



REGION WISE TREND OF NEW ARRESTS -JUL 2016



109 registered Afghans were released from police stations and prisons of country

KPK

Total Meetings conducted (including meetings with Police Officials & Authorities) =

169

Total Number of Court Cases dealt (including 14F.Act, 188 PPC, 55/109 & 283/290) =

153

Released Without Charge

239