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One-Day Capacity building Workshop for Police Officials held at LAYYAH

One-Day training Workshop for Police officials on “Legal & Social Status of Refugees in context of National & International Laws” was organized on 22nd July,2017 at Police Line, District, Layyah to brief them about Human and Refugee Rights, Foreigners Act, 1946, PITRA 2015 and Legal Status of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan. The workshop aimed at building capacity of the police officials on human and refugee rights and their role in protecting and promoting Human Rights.

Total 54 Police officials (48 Male & 6 Female: ASI, SI, Inspectors & DSP's of District, Layyah) participated in the workshop. Mr. Mudassar Javed Director LAP, Mr. Yasir Ayaz Khan UNHCR, Mr. Shahzad ADPP and Mr. Asghar Ali DSP Legal district Layyah delivered Sessions.



One-Day Capacity building Workshop for Police Officials held at LAHORE

One-Day capacity building workshop for Police officials on “Human & Refugee Rights In the light of relevant Laws and notifications” was organized on 3rd August,2017 at Police Training College Chung Lahore. The workshop aimed at building capacity of the police officials on human and refugee rights and their role in protecting and promoting Human Rights. Total 59 Police officials of different ranks participated in the workshop.

Mr. Qamar Zaman SSP Legal in his closing remarks shared that he diligently observed the entire workshop; he appreciated and congratulated SHARP for arranging such a wonderful awareness session for the Police officials.

One of the participants gave his remarks about the workshop stating, “This workshop was very fruitful and informative. I learned a lot about Human Rights and rights of refugees. Police is to protect human rights and this knowledge will help me in my professional duties as human rights defender. Thank you SHARP for this training”.

Mr. Muneer stated, “I work in one of police stations at Lahore and I come across with afghan refugees in jurisdiction of my police station. Today I have learnt many new things about Human & Refugee Rights & Law, which I will apply in my service as police officer. I should respect the rights of refugees. This NGO SHARP has organized very good programme for police officials, we should not only fight against terrorism rather we should have knowledge about Human Rights and Laws. I am really grateful to SHARP.”

One-Day Capacity building Workshop for Police Officials held at KARACHI

One day capacity building Workshop for Police Officials was conducted on 9th August,2017 at Police Training Center Razakabad, Karachi with the objective to build the capacity of Police officials on Human Rights and Refugee Rights in the context of International conventions, principles and National Law in Pakistan. Total 45 Police officers of the rank of Inspectors, Sub Inspectors/SOs and IOs from Different Police Stations participated in this capacity building Workshop.

Mr. Pir Mohammad Shah (Commandant Razakabad Police Training Center, Karachi) in his closing remarks appreciated SHARP-Pakistan for conducting such an informative sessions with Police officers. He emphasized the need to build capacity of police on Human Rights. He assured that Police will always be supportive to refugees and will protect their human rights. He awarded the certificates among the participants.

One of the participants shared that it was good learning opportunity for police officials as police remain under pressure in Karachi due to security concerns. I have learnt how to protect human and refugee rights. I am glad to have this opportunity to learn. SHARP did really well.



Editorial

We are pleased to welcome you to 7th issue of our e-Newsletter.

Happy Reading!

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.



One Day Capacity building Training on SGBV by UNHCR

One Day Capacity building Training on SGBV was held on 1st August, 2017 at UNHCR Office Islamabad. The objectives of the training were to build capacity of partner's staff on SGBV concepts, consequences of SGBV and response. There were 12 participants in the training including Psycho socio counselors, Lawyer, Teachers, Shelter counselors, Registration officer from INGO, and NGOs.

Celebrations of International Day of Peace 2017

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the globe on 21 September. The theme for 2017 is "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All."

Youth Peace dialogue at Islamabad

Society for Human Rights and Prisoners Aid (SHARP-Pakistan) organized a Youth Dialogue as a part of International Day of Peace activities, at SHARP office, Islamabad on 26th of September 2017. In the dialogue, Pakistani, Afghan and Somalian students from various institutions including International Islamic University, National University of Modern Languages and Shaheed Wali School. The panel of experts included representation from UNHCR, ICMC and NUML.

The oath taking ceremony held where 16 students signed the Oath form of SHARP-Pakistan and showed their willingness to become Youth peace ambassadors for SHARP and work for peace in their communities. These ambassadors shall serve for a period of one year and perform different activities in their respective communities.



Peace Walk at Karachi

SHARP Karachi office organized a peace walk with youth, CSO and Media. The walk started at 11am and lasted about 2pm. The starting point was the main Gate of Governor House Sindh and ended at Karachi Press Club. Students of Bright Future School, their staff and SHARP Staff warmly participated in the walk. The participants were carrying Banners and play cards in support of promoting peace and education while chanted slogans in favour of peace and condemning terrorism.



Youth Peace Dialogue at Lahore

SHARP Lahore Office organized Youth Peace dialogue at Shadi Pura Lahore. Young people from Refugee community and local participated in the event. Local leaders of Union Council 138 were engaged to share their opinion on promotion of peace and role of youth in the community.

The purpose of organizing such event was the direct interaction among Afghan Nationals and the locals and to give freedom of speech, respect and dignity. Youth actively participated in the dialogue and showed commitment to promote peace, harmony, respect and dignity in the community. The community elders supported their ideas. Youth Peace Ambassadors were selected at the end of dialogue.



Grand SHURA Meeting facilitated by SHARP Karachi (19-Sep, 2017)

Upon the request of UNHCR Karachi, a grand SHURA meeting was arranged by the SHARP Karachi at Camp-e-Jadeed where Representatives from UNHCR Karachi, MORR Afghanistan, Officials from Afghan Consulate Karachi and SHARP Colleagues were present while numbers of Afghan elders from different localities of Karachi participated and discussed the issues related to new registration of unregistered Afghans in Karachi and a policy of Pakistan and Afghanistan regarding repatriation of Afghans to their country of origin.



ECHO Funded Project Briefing and Progress Sharing

ECHO Funded Project Briefing & Progress Sharing held on Monday 18th September, 2017 at SHARP Office Islamabad. Syed Liaqat Banori welcomed the participants in the meeting. Ms. Memona gave presentation about the progress in ECHO funded project.

Syed Liaqat Banori, Chairman SHARP-Pakistan appreciated the project teams for achieving the targets. He presented vote of thanks to ECHO team for supporting SHARP, which proved to be a blessing for refugees in KPK.

Rangoona Festival

One-Day RANGOONA FESTIVAL was organized by UNHCR on 17th August 2017 at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Islamabad. The objective of this event was to bring together people from different backgrounds to showcase some of the artistic talents and skills that exist within Afghan refugee and Pakistani host communities across the country. SHARP-Pakistan team with youth from refugee community actively participated in the festival. A large number of Representatives from international community, NGO's and Media participated in the event.

Capacity building Training of Lawyers at Bunir

One day Capacity building training of lawyers was organized by SHARP and ICMC collectively at Summer INN hotel Sawaray Bunir on 20th July, 2017. About 27 lawyers participated in this training, the feedback for the training was very positive and encouraging for the SHARP and the ICMC for the future activities.

Hepatitis Awareness Campaign at RV Kot Chandna

On 28th July 2017, ALAC-III team launched Hepatitis awareness campaign in collaboration with Health Department, Government of Punjab at RV, Kot Chandna. The main activities of the campaign included initiating awareness drives to educate Afghans families about Hepatitis and its prevention. The team conducted two separate sessions with Afghan Male and Females. In the first Awareness Session, about 85 Afghan Male participated and shared their reservations with the team. The team also focused Afghan Females and conducted separate awareness session with them. About 150 Afghan Females participated in the Session.



One Day Training Session on Participatory Assessment

Mr. Ahsan Ali (Lawyer Mianwali), Ms. Najma Abbasi Team Lead ALAC-I, Mr. Irfan Afridi Lawyer ALAC-I, Mr. Shahzad Ali Shah Registration Assistant RSD Islamabad and Ms. Ruby Naz RSD Receptionist Islamabad participated in One Day Training Session on Participatory Assessment on 11th September 2017 at FUI, UNHCR. The training was organized by UNHCR.



Staff Participation in Training Workshops

Mr. Imran Khan Yousafzai (FM) Mianwali participated in Master ToT-2 Workshop on the topic of Building Understanding and Application of CBP & Outreach in UNHCR Operation in Pakistan on 03-07 July 2017 at Marriot Hotel, Islamabad organized by UNHCR, Islamabad.

SHARP held orientation session for its newly recruited staff

As SHARP has recently signed a new project to provide support to refugees living in Pakistan, it hired new staff for the implementation of the project. To make the staff familiar with the overall objectives and operations of SHARP, and develop a good understanding of the project – its objectives, methodology, outcomes, and activities, SHARP organized staff training on 16th August, 2017 at VIP Guest House Peshawar.



Mr. Syed Liaqat Banori – Chairman SHARP congratulated & welcomed all newly recruited staff members of SHARP for SDC Project. He added that SHARP Pakistan is committed to extend its services to the destitute and deprived segments of the society through its dedicated team.

DPO orders No Adverse Action against Afghans

With the efforts of ALAC team Mr. Sarfaraz Ahmad Virk DPO Sheikhpura issued circular to all SDPOs and SHOs of District Sheikhpura with strict direction to not take any adverse action against registered Afghan Refugees till 31st Dec 2017.

In addition the DPOs of Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Kasur, Okara and Sahiwal ordered the same.



Primary School Zawalpota Dargai (Malsand) Visit regarding Admission issue and meeting with School Principal and other Staff on 25/9/2017



Coordination and consultative meeting with UNHCR team (DPOs/SHOs) District Mianwali, Government of Punjab, Islamabad on 15/7/2017



Legal camp with female Afghan Refugees on 15/7/2017 at Khatir Town, District Sahiwal

One day Public Prosecutors Training on Refugee rights in the light of relevant laws and notifications” Aug-05 at Peshawar

SHARP conducted a session with Public Prosecutors on Human Rights and International Protection to promote their respect 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.

A session on Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees was also included in order to provide an opportunity for the Public prosecutors to learn about Government stance and policies relating to Afghan Refugees.

Seminar on Refugee Rights under National & International Laws

Seminar on Refugee Rights under National & International Laws was arranged by SHARP and ICMC collectively in Aziz Bilal Resturant Sawaray Bunir on 21st Sep, 2017. 40 participants from different walks of life including the Afghan Refugees participated. Speakers from various departments students, law enforcement officials, Lawyers, poets and teachers also participated in this seminar and shared their experiences. The seminar was very interactive and knowledgeable, the participants appreciated SHARP's efforts, and encouraged to organize such interactive activities in the future.

Workshop on Violence against Women at Peshawar

ALAC Peshawar lawyers participated in two-day workshop (19-20 September,2017) organized by The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Commission on the Status of Women (KPCSW) at PC Hotel Peshawar. The objective of the workshop was to design a KP specific initiative on violence against women through a consultative process by bringing together relevant stakeholders. Experts discussed gaps and provided comprehensive recommendations for addressing issues related to lacunas in law and its implementation, in policing, and in forensics. At the end of this consultation, a major outline was drafted for KPCSW to initiate a pilot.

Consultation session for Lawyers in context of International Protection, and Refugee Rights

One-Day Consultation Session for Lawyers on International Protection, Human Rights and Refugee Rights was conducted at Charsada on 26 Sep,2017. A group of lawyers, Representative of Bar Association, Media and Academics participated.

Consultation on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Human Rights Strategy

ALAC Peshawar Lawyers participated in one day consultation on "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Human Rights Strategy" organized by UNDP at PC Hotel Peshawar on Sept 20th.

ToT on Community based Protection at Peshawar

UNHCR organized five days ToT regarding community based protection on provincial level at Pearl Continental Hotel, Peshawar. Colleagues from UNHCR, CDU/CAR and SHARP attended the training. The main objective of this training was to empower the Afghan refugee communities and make them able to identify and solve their issues by themselves. The Theme of this training was to identify and select refugee outreach volunteers from each afghan community/cluster. During the training, strategy for community-based protection was discussed.

PARTICIPATORY ASSESMENT EXERCISE 2017 KPK

SHARP teams along with officials from UNHCR and CDU/CAR, remained involved in PA exercise from 12-18 Sept, 2017. The venues selected for this year's exercise were Attock, Rawalpindi, Tadjabad, Danishabad, Haji camp Peshawar and RV Kheski Nowshera. The objectives of this exercise were to gather information on the specific protection risks faced by refugees, the underlying causes, as well as help to understand their capacities and proposed solutions, to analyze information on community capabilities including existing and future resources that contributes to self-reliance and to incorporate the community's input into the implementation phases of UNHCR's CBP and Outreach Strategy 2017-2019.



One day Capacity building training of police officials at Mardan

One day Capacity building training of police officials was held on 18th July, 2017 at Police Training school Toru, Mardan. A total of 20 male police officers participated in the training at Mardan. The main sessions were conducted on human rights, international laws, international protection, and role of UNHCR and SHARP in conducting activities to ensure protection to person of concern.



One day Capacity Building training of Police officials held at Peshawar

One day capacity building training of police officials was held on 18th July at Police School of Investigation Hayatabad, Peshawar. Total 26 male and 01 female police officers participated in the training at Peshawar. The main sessions were conducted on human rights, international laws, international protection, and role of UNHCR and SHARP in conducting activities to ensure protection to person of concern.



One day Capacity Building training of Public Prosecutors held at Abbotabad

One day Capacity Building training of public prosecutors was held on 22nd July, 2017 at Abbotabad. Total 28 prosecutors participated in this training. The main sessions were conducted on human rights, international laws, international protection, and role of UNHCR and SHARP in conducting activities to ensure protection to person of concern.



Success Stories

Protection provided to a widow Afghan lady

In the month of July an Afghan Widow namely Ms. Gita, resident of Afghan Camp, Super Highway, Karachi, approached SHARP Office seeking protection. According to her statement, her husband Haji Nadir s/o Haji Rahmat died about 8 months ago in Karachi by natural death. After the death of her husband, the in-laws were forcing her for second marriage with person already married, only to grab the property left by her late husband.

She had serious threats from the relatives of her late husband and she was taking refuge in her sister's house. The matter was taken up by the SHARP Karachi office with the SHO of Gulshan-e-Maymar and the accused party was apprehended by the police while the protection was provided to Ms. Gita and she along with her children managed to leave Karachi in protection of police for Afghanistan to see her parents.

Money Returned through Jirga

Bashirulhaq S/o Aminulhaq R/O Afghanistan presently living in Minora Shabqadar. He deals in snacks and chips, manufactures it on very small scale in a plot adjacent to his house, and then delivers it to market for sale. He has contacts with shopkeepers in Shabqadar and delivers the snacks on a motorbike. This business is the only source of income to feed his family.

A week earlier he contacted the SHARP ECHO team on helpline and reported that he had business with one namely Shahid. The refugee further reported/ complained that he has given him chips amounting to 100,000 rupees. He further stated that he has delivered this product to Shahid more than a year ago and Shahid has not paid him the money yet. He said that Shahid is not willing to pay the money and it is a great loss to him and his family as he is doing the business on a very small scale and cannot bear the loss.

On receiving this information, the SHARP ECHO team visited the refugee and recorded his case. The team took the refugee to the house of shahid in shabqadar and met the person.

A jirga was convened with the person namely, shahid and the matter was discussed with him. He was sufficiently informed about the consequences of non-payment that if he does not pay the money, which he admitted in presence of SHARP Team, then he will face a civil suit for payment of outstanding money. He was also told that if the court passes a decree against him in the case, he can be put behind the bars for six months and in execution of the decree, even his property can be attached and sold for payment of the debt by the court.

On hearing this he agreed to pay the entire money in installments as he said that during his business he had incurred loss and further said that now he is not in a position to pay the money in lump sum. He agreed in the presence of two respectable of the community to pay the entire money and as a token of his promise paid 4000 rupees to the refugee on the spot. The refugee also was satisfied with payment through installments. Shahid will pay 10,000 rupees to the refugee on the 9th of every month as agreed.

This way the issue was resolved and the refugee thanked the SHARP ECHO team.

Case study of Dawa gul Resident of Afghanistan



Dawa jan is an Afghan refugee who is a resident of Peshawar as temporary abode. Dawa jan is a poor person and a laborer. Recently The SHARP ECHO visited PCM office for assisting some of the beneficiaries. During meeting with officials the team came across the case of dawa jan. Dawa jan has a daughter by name of Touhida who is written as a boy in the PCM record. The PCM office refused to provide relief to the refugee.

Changing the gender of a person creates great problems for people especially refugees. For example if a refugee is repatriating, it will be impossible for him to repatriate a female instead of a male.

The sharp team recorded the case of dawa jan and provided him assistance. The meeting was conducted in this regard and the officials agreed to change the gender of the child in PCM record only if dawa jan brings school leaving certificate of the child Touhida.

Dawa jan promised to bring school leaving certificate and follow up will be done by the Team. If the case is not resolved positively then legal action can be taken against PCM for correction of the gender.

Success Stories

Girls Education-Road to Prosperity

Education is the basic human right. However, when you want to enjoy this right you face hurdles and get disappointed.

Sara is an afghan refugee and a brilliant student who got 850 marks in her Matric/SSC exam. She dreamt to become a doctor in future. Sara's father was missing since fifteen years, almost one year after her birth. She had never felt a father's love and affection. Being a single child of her parent's, Sadia bibi her mother tried her best to provide all the facilities to her daughter. Her mother used to work in neighbor houses on daily basis to provide all kind of comforts to her daughter.



When Sara passed her matric exam with good marks, she was very happy and she thought that her daughter's dream of becoming doctor will be become true which will bring good name to her family in their community.

When the date for admission to Timergara's girl college for pre-medical were announced, she went with her mother to the college and requested for admission form but she was shocked when she was told that she cannot get admission in college because she is not a Pakistani citizen and that there was only one seat for afghan refugee which had already been filled by another refugee girl.

Sara was very disappointed, lost her hopes of becoming a doctor, her mother was also very sad and disappointed because she was a poor women and she could not afford fees for private educational institutes.

When SHARP Team at Lower Dir went to organize legal camp in the mid of August 2017, Sara met with female councilor of SHARP Dir lower team and told story and request them to arrange her admission in 1st year pre-medical in any other free education institution if possible.

SHARP Dir lower team referred the case to Mr. Hanif (Focal

person Child protection Dir lower and after few days Sara heard a good news that she has got admission at Jamal education Academy and that she will get education all at free.

Sara and her mother were very thankful to SHARP for taking interest in her admission. She and her mother came to SHARP Dir lower office Chakdara personally to say thanks. A hopeless Refugee Girl started dreaming big to become an agent of change.

Dispute between PoC and Police officials resolved

ALAC Peshawar team successfully resolved a issue of Afghan refugee who are residing in RV Hajizai and his house was demolished by PS Daudzai. Case was reported by the social animator of RV. Local jirga of community, DA office, UNHCR and SHARP was arranged and matter was sorted out amicably.

SHARP team met with the DSP Daudzai Circle Mr. Gran Ullah Khan regarding the issue of demolishing/eviction of refugee House at RV Haji Zai charsada. During the meeting SHO Sardar Ali, ASI Riaz Khan, SI Abdur Rahman khan, community elders, DA Office representative and CAR representative (social animator) were also present.

The issue was between an Afghan refugee namely Rahimullah s/o Muhammad Gul (PoR card# GR11065920211) and Police official of Mamo Khatki, check post in vicinity of PS Daudzai, on the eviction and demolishing of the refugee house which was amicably solved by the Jirga, through interventions of Alac-team.

Staff News

Farewell to Staff

- SHARP-Pakistan welcomes all the newly recruited staff members in Projects supported by UNHCR & SDC at different stations in Pakistan.

Welcome to Staff

- SHARP-Pakistan extends good wishes to all the staff members who left SHARP during this period.

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

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

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

ICT, Punjab, AJK & Sindh:

Court Cases dealt= **121**

Legal Advise/Counselling= **198**

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

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

Helpline calls= **1261**

Coordination meetings= **77**

New arrests reported = **125**

KPK:

Legal Aid & Court cases= **44**

Released without being charged= **220**

LEGAL ASSISTANCE= **117**

LEGAL ADVICE AND COUNSELING= **2,280**

Legal Camps= **11** (837 persons sensitized, 475 male and 362 female)

Focus Group Discussions held= **06** with 90 participants (29 male, 70 female)

Capacity building trainings held= **05** with 117 participants (116 male, 01 female)

REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION (RSD)

Cases identified under PRF= **141**

PNA's conducted= **55**

KPK (ECHO project):

Legal Aid cases dealt= **164**

Legal Assistance cases= **246**

Advice and Counseling provided to PoC= **4,614**

Referral Cases= **02**

Helpline Calls = **340**

Helpline Calls = **1,268**