

World Refugee Day Special Edition



Together We Celebrate, Together We Care – June Reflections

Honoring Refugee Journeys: SHARP Leads National Celebrations for World Refugee Day

SHARP proudly marked World Refugee Day 2025 with a vibrant series of events across Pakistan, reaffirming its enduring commitment to refugee rights, resilience, and inclusion. Held under the Protection Project and in collaboration with UNHCR and local stakeholders, the commemorations featured inclusive and community-driven activities in Islamabad, Lahore, Mardan, Timergara, Karachi, Kohat, Mianwali, Gujrat, and Peshawar.

The national kickoff event brought together UNHCR representatives, SHARP leadership, and refugee participants for an expressive celebration of cultures and stories. Highlights included the Threads of Solidarity art session, musical games, and storytelling, offering refugees a platform to share their traditions, experiences, and hopes.

Extending the spirit into World Refugee Week, regional celebrations featured cultural performances, face painting, documentary screenings, solidarity-themed art displays, and interactive discussions—promoting inclusion, empathy, and mutual respect.



In Peshawar, SHARP concluded the week with a dynamic cricket match uniting Afghan youth, host community members, and partners through the universal language of sports. The event fostered social cohesion and celebrated resilience, drawing praise from key guests, including representatives from the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees, UNHCR, IOM, and civil society. Community members expressed heartfelt gratitude for the continued support and hospitality of SHARP and the Government of Pakistan.



SHARP Unites to [#BeatPlasticPollution](#) on World Environment Day 2025



In alignment with the global theme [#BeatPlasticPollution](#), SHARP proudly marked World Environment Day 2025 with a powerful display of unity and purpose, reaffirming its commitment to sustainability and climate responsibility across all levels of the organization.

The observance began in Murree, where a symbolic cake-cutting ceremony brought together teams from Lahore, Attock, Islamabad, and Peshawar. This small yet meaningful gesture reflected SHARP's collective dedication to environmental consciousness, led by CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed and Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal and emphasized that sustainability begins with intention and unity.



Further activities unfolded in Islamabad, where SHARP staff took the lead with a climate awareness walk followed by an interactive clean-up drive, reinforcing civic responsibility through action. These initiatives were not just symbolic, they demonstrated SHARP's hands-on approach to environmental protection, with staff actively contributing to a cleaner, greener future.



Situation Update

In June 2025, the overall protection environment for Afghan refugees in Pakistan remained fluid, with localized challenges and gradual shifts in community sentiment. While no major enforcement actions were reported under the Government's Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP), low-level apprehensions and fear-driven returns continued, particularly in urban and border-adjacent areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Baluchistan.

Field teams noted a modest uptick in voluntary repatriation, largely motivated by socioeconomic pressures, lack of livelihood opportunities, and ongoing fear of future crackdowns. Families with mixed documentation status—especially those holding expired ACCs or lacking Proof of Registration (PoR) cards—remained particularly vulnerable. Reports of arbitrary checks, temporary detentions, and housing insecurity continued to surface, although coordination with district authorities led to improved resolution in several cases.

Protection concerns intensified for women-headed households, persons with disabilities, and youth with interrupted education. Community feedback revealed rising anxiety over school access, health services, and the uncertainty of legal status for long-staying refugees. In response, humanitarian actors including SHARP, UNHCR, and partners scaled up targeted legal counselling, psychosocial support, and referral services in high-risk areas.

Positive developments included ongoing collaboration with local law enforcement and civil administration, leading to a more coordinated response in certain districts. Legal awareness and documentation clinics were expanded, while protection monitoring helped identify and respond to emerging risks.

SHARP's Mid-Year Coordination Meetings in Lahore & Mianwali

To enhance program efficiency and alignment, SHARP's Project Director, Mr. Aatif Afzal, led mid-year coordination meetings with Protection Project teams in Mianwali and Lahore, accompanied by Sr. Procurement Officer Mr. Javed Ali Chandia and Sr. AHRO Mr. Jehanzaib Aftab. These meetings focused on progress reviews, operational challenges, and strategic planning for the second half of 2025.



In Mianwali, Field Manager Mr. Imran Khan Yousafzai presented key updates on ALAC-III, including achievements, protection concerns, and strategies to strengthen legal aid and service delivery. In Lahore, Mr. Afzal praised the ALAC-II team's execution of IFRP Phase-2, Shura meetings, legal camps, and WRD activities. Field Manager Ms. Arooj Un Nissa shared a detailed performance overview and highlighted ongoing refugee challenges. The Multi-Functional Team also engaged the Lahore team to reinforce administrative systems, HR policies, and

procurement compliance. Emphasis was placed on role clarity, logistical efficiency, branding, and stakeholder engagement.

Strengthening GBV Referral Mechanisms: SHARP & IMC Coordination Meeting

SHARP reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing protection services through collaboration with national and international partners by hosting a coordination meeting with the International Medical Corps (IMC) at its Islamabad office.

The meeting aimed to develop an effective referral mechanism for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases and was attended by IMC's Ms. Kiran Palwasha (GBV Manager) and Ms. Gullnaz Farooq (Field Site Supervisor), along with SHARP's Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal, AHRM Ms. Huma Aziz, and Lawyer Ms. Kainat. Key discussions focused on GBV case referrals requiring legal support, referral pathways, and potential areas of collaboration. Both teams emphasized the need for integrated legal and psychosocial services for GBV prevention and survivor support.



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SHARP Strengthens Legal Protection for Refugees Through Judicial Consultation

The SHARP-KP team successfully organized a one-day consultative session at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy (KPJA), bringing together 24 civil judges and judicial magistrates from across the province. The session focused on strengthening institutional coordination, promoting rights-based legal practices, and addressing key protection concerns impacting refugees and asylum seekers.

With participation from UNHCR, IOM, and KPJA, the event served as a platform to exchange legal insights and improve access to justice for displaced populations. Certificates were awarded to the participants, and shields were presented to distinguished guests for their support.

UNHCR Protection Officer Mr. David Mulbah, the chief guest, emphasized the judiciary's role in upholding refugee rights and reaffirmed ongoing collaboration with SHARP and national stakeholders. SHARP Chairman Mr. Liaqat Banori applauded the active involvement of judicial officials and partners in advancing legal empowerment, underscoring the need for a united, principled approach to protecting vulnerable populations.



SHARP Conducts Training Workshop on Human Rights and Refugee Law for Mianwali Police

The ALAC team in Mianwali successfully organized a training workshop at Police Lines Mianwali, aimed at sensitizing 36 police officers on human rights and refugee laws within national and international legal frameworks.

The session focused on enhancing the understanding of law enforcement officials regarding refugee protection, the UNHCR mandate, and the rights of vulnerable populations. Key topics included human rights principles, refugee law, and the situation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Mr. Afzal Khan, DSP Headquarters Mianwali, attended the event as Chief Guest, while Mr. Aatif Afzal, Project Director-ICT, also graced the occasion.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Afzal Khan appreciated SHARP's initiative for building the capacity of law enforcement officials to better respond to the rights and needs of vulnerable communities.



SHARP Conducts Sensitization Workshop for Police Officials in Kohat

SHARP ALAC team in KP successfully organized a one-day sensitization workshop for police officials in Kohat, focusing on the UNHCR mandate, the legal status of Afghans in Pakistan, and the critical importance of upholding human rights and international protection standards.

The session aimed to enhance the capacity of law enforcement personnel to address refugee-related issues with compassion, legal awareness, and sensitivity. SHARP's Project Director, Ms. Memoona Batool, along with team members, actively participated in the workshop, reinforcing the organization's commitment to building protection-sensitive policing practices.

SP Mr. Fazal Dad, Director of PTS, attended as Chief Guest and commended SHARP for the initiative, underscoring the value of such trainings for frontline officers.



SHARP and UNHCR Conduct Capacity-Building Workshop for Public Prosecutors in Swat

In partnership with UNHCR Pakistan, SHARP organized a two-day capacity-building workshop in Swat for Public Prosecutors from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The training aimed to enhance participants' theoretical and practical understanding of human rights, UNHCR's mandate, the international protection framework, and the legal status of Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Facilitated by SHARP's Mardan team led by Ms. Memoona Batool, Project Director KP, and Mr. Muhammad Rafiq, Field Manager, alongside representatives from UNHCR, the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR), and the Prosecution Department, the workshop also explored the constitutional roles and responsibilities of prosecutors.

The initiative strengthened participants' capacity to apply rights-based approaches in legal proceedings and reinforced SHARP's commitment to advancing justice and protection for vulnerable communities.





SHARP Organizes Sensitization Workshop for Police Officials in Nowshera

SHARP-ALAC team in Peshawar successfully conducted a one-day sensitization workshop for 30 police officials in District Nowshera, focusing on refugee rights, legal frameworks, and protection-sensitive policing.

The session aimed to enhance legal awareness and promote responsible law enforcement practices for vulnerable populations.

Representatives from UNHCR appreciated the initiative for strengthening coordination between police and humanitarian actors.

District Police Officer (DPO) Mr. Abdur Rashid attended as Chief Guest and distributed certificates to participants, commending SHARP's efforts. In recognition of his support, SHARP Project Director KP, Ms. Memoona Batool, presented a shield to the DPO on behalf of the organization.



SHARP Organizes Two-Day Orientation Workshop for Protection Team

SHARP successfully held a two-day orientation workshop to strengthen the Protection Team's understanding of project goals, protocols, and best practices under its ongoing and expanded protection initiatives. Bringing together team members from multiple regions in a serene setting, the workshop offered a collaborative and enriching platform for capacity building.

Day one focused on organizational orientation, legal aid services, achievements, legal counselling strategies, monitoring tools, and HR compliance. A team-building session reinforced unity, purpose, and professionalism. Day two covered media and communication protocols, safety and digital security, the Code of Conduct, and compliance in finance and procurement. Regional protection efforts and challenges, especially those related to Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders—were also discussed.

The workshop concluded with words of appreciation from SHARP leadership. Participants departed with strengthened knowledge and renewed dedication to delivering rights-based, dignified support to refugee communities.



SHARP Conducts Human Rights Training for Police Officials in Lahore.



Under its protection project, SHARP organized a one-day training workshop for 40 police officials at Police Lines Qila Gujjar Singh, Lahore, to promote rights-based and community-sensitive policing. Led by Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal, the SHARP team included Ms. Arooj Un Nissa, Mr. Shah Faisal, and Ms. Laraib Saeed.

The session focused on national and international human rights frameworks and the protection of vulnerable groups, including refugees. SP Ms. Monaza Karamat, Chief Guest, and DSP Mr. Babar Shaukat, Guest of Honor, appreciated the initiative, highlighting its value in strengthening police capacity. Ms. Karamat emphasized the need for a human rights-centered approach in law enforcement.

Strengthen Community Outreach Through Refresher Trainings.



In collaboration with UNHCR and protection project, SHARP conducted a series of refresher trainings for Community Outreach Volunteers (COVs) across Karachi, Peshawar, Timergara, and Dir-Lower to enhance their role as vital links between refugee communities and protection services.

The sessions focused on building community resilience, improving access to essential services, and promoting inclusive, rights-based outreach.

Volunteers revisited their roles and responsibilities, developed Community Action Plans (CAPs), and participated in gender-specific trainings covering protection, education, healthcare, and referral mechanisms.

SHARP Conducts TBB Outreach Sessions to Empower Skilled Refugees

In collaboration with UNHCR, SHARP successfully conducted four dedicated outreach sessions under the Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) initiative, aimed at connecting skilled refugees with international employment opportunities. Held in Karachi, the sessions were organized separately for male and female participants to ensure inclusive and comfortable engagement. The sessions focused on raising awareness about the TBB platform—a global initiative that links skilled refugees with international employers—and provided practical guidance on registration, CV writing, interview preparation, and navigating application procedures.



Participants received step-by-step support to enhance their readiness for global job markets and were introduced to SHARP's broader protection and livelihood initiatives. With a total of over 170 refugees participating across the sessions, the initiative served as a vital platform for empowering individuals with the tools, information, and confidence needed to pursue dignified employment and greater self-reliance.

SHARP and TBB Explore Strategic Growth to Support Refugee Employment

In a strategic coordination meeting, SHARP Project Director, Mr. Aatif Afzal and the TBB Global Partnership Manager Ms. Aida Chavez conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing SHARP–Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) collaboration in Pakistan.

The discussion highlighted SHARP's 26-year legacy of refugee support, the positive impact of the TBB initiative, and shared goals to expand international employment pathways for skilled refugees. Both organizations reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening this partnership, aiming to create broader opportunities for displaced communities through sustainable and dignified solutions.



LEGAL CAMPS:

SHARP's commitment to support persons we serve continues with Legal Camps in different areas of Pakistan! Our dedicated teams of lawyers conducted these legal camps to provide vital assistance to Afghan refugees. From navigating documentation to understanding legal rights, we're there right in the heart of their communities to aware, empower, guide and assist. This initiative reinforces SHARP's unwavering commitment to making legal support accessible and impactful for all vulnerable groups.

