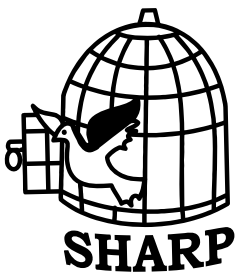


INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION



Monthly **NEWSLETTER** August 2025

- ▶ *Serving Humanity*
- ▶ *Protecting Rights*
- ▶ *Building Peace*



A TRIBUTE TO HUMANITARIAN WORKERS



PLANTATION DRIVE

An act of hope amid the growing climate crisis

Society for Human Rights & Prisoners' Aid



Message from the CEO

Muhammad Mudassar Javed
*Chief Executive Officer,
SHARP-Pakistan*

Dear Partners & Readers,

August was a month of renewed resolve for SHARP–Pakistan, a time to reaffirm our commitment to those we serve, strengthen our partnerships, and advance our mission of protection and justice.

As our nation celebrated its 78th Independence Day, SHARP turned this spirit into action through a symbolic yet powerful plantation drive in Fateh Jhang, an act of hope amid the growing climate crisis. At the same time, devastating floods in KP, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Punjab reminded us that resilience is not a choice but a necessity. In these challenging moments, SHARP stood firmly by refugees and host communities, ensuring uninterrupted access to justice through legal aid camps, awareness sessions, and on-ground protection services across the country. Beyond the field, we strengthened our advocacy and global engagement. From high-level meetings with diplomatic missions to collaborative workshops with law enforcement, SHARP continued to build networks that amplify the voices of the vulnerable and reinforce protection systems. Each effort, whether empowering a refugee girl to continue her education or equipping police officials with human rights knowledge, reflects our unwavering belief in dignity, equity, and hope.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our partners, supporters, and the SHARP team for their tireless dedication. Together, we are not just responding to challenges, we are shaping solutions that safeguard rights and build a more inclusive future.



Situation Update:

August in Pakistan was marked by two overlapping humanitarian crises: large-scale Afghan deportations/evictions and severe flooding across multiple provinces. Both developments have triggered urgent protection, displacement, and humanitarian concerns. Families facing deportation, including registered Afghan refugees, were reported living in public spaces and makeshift shelters, while UN agencies and human rights organizations raised alarms about the risks of forced returns and urged compliance with international safeguards. UN experts and OHCHR publicly called for humane approaches to deportations, emphasizing the need for protection-sensitive procedures.

UNHCR and IOM monitoring reports highlighted active border movements, detention, and arrest trends across several districts. International media also focused on migration governance, with debates in Europe, including Germany, on Afghan resettlement and deportation policies, while rights groups pursued legal action to challenge such decisions. The situation underlines both the regional and global effects of migration management in Pakistan.

The floods have compounded these challenges, displacing thousands of families, destroying homes and schools, and exacerbating the vulnerabilities of both refugee and host communities. The dual crises have created significant operational pressure points, including a spike in demand for legal aid, urgent triage for protection cases such as GBV and child protection, and critical gaps in shelter and medical support. The spread of misinformation has heightened the need for accurate legal guidance and clear communication with affected communities.

Amid urgent needs, donors and diplomatic missions may support targeted funding for legal aid, protection monitoring, and MHPSS for flood-affected and refugee families, critical to safeguarding their rights, safety, and dignity in this crisis time.

SHARP Response:

SHARP is scaling up its efforts to address the dual challenges of deportations and flood-related displacement. Legal teams have been deployed to detention centers and eviction hotspots to provide documentation support, legal aid, and urgent referrals, while dedicated hotlines continue to guide refugees with accurate information and counter misinformation.

In flood-affected areas in Pakistan, SHARP aims to launch emergency protection response that includes legal assistance for lost documents, MHPSS support for displaced families, engaging activities for children, medical camps, distribution food and hygiene kits. These efforts are carried out in close coordination with authorities and partners to ensure protection is integrated with relief. As a frontline organization in refugee protection and climate-linked displacement, SHARP continues to advocate for compassionate deportation practices, adherence to non-refoulement, and protection-sensitive police.

APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY**Urgent Call for Support:
Protecting Flood-Affected Women & Children in Pakistan**

Pakistan is facing one of its worst monsoon emergencies in decades. Since June 2025, over 2.5 million people have been affected by devastating floods, with **more than 900 lives lost**. The brunt of this climate-induced disaster is being borne by **women and children**, particularly in hard-hit districts across KP, Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab, and Sindh.

Displacement, destroyed infrastructure, and rising health risks have left vulnerable populations without safe shelter, clean water, or essential health and hygiene support. In areas like **Shangla, Buner, Ghizer, and Diamer**, the situation is worsening as **winter rapidly approaches**. Women—especially those pregnant or lactating—face increased protection risks and lack access to maternal care. Children sleep on damp floors, exposed to disease, cold, and trauma.

SHARP urgently seeks **international support** to implement a **rapid response** targeting 12,000 individuals (75% women and children). Our relief package includes hygiene kits, mosquito nets, warm clothing, maternal health kits, elevated beds, and mobile medical services, alongside winterization items for northern districts.

With your partnership, we can prevent further loss, restore dignity, and protect the lives of those most at risk. SHARP stands ready with experienced field teams, community-based networks, and strong coordination with local authorities to act swiftly and responsibly.

We call on **donors, INGOs, UN agencies, diplomatic missions and humanitarian allies** to stand with us in delivering timely, gender-sensitive relief—before this emergency turns into a deeper humanitarian crisis.

Join us in making a difference.

- GREEN PAKISTAN -



On Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, SHARP–Pakistan celebrated with more than patriotic zeal, it turned commitment into action. In Fateh Jhang, the team planted 100 indigenous saplings, symbolizing both sustainability and resilience in the face of growing climate challenges. In his remarks, Mr. Banori emphasized that independence is a sacred gift earned through sacrifice, and that the duty today is not only to protect the land but also to nurture it. He stressed that every tree planted represents a promise of life, a shield against climate change, and a pledge of love to Pakistan.

The significance of this initiative deepened in the wake of the devastating August floods in KP, which once again highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change. These floods displaced communities, destroyed livelihoods, and underscored the urgency of climate-resilient actions. SHARP's plantation drive is more than a symbolic gesture, it is part of a long-term vision to link national pride with ecological responsibility, offering a tangible response to the climate crisis.



World Humanitarian Day 2025

A Tribute to Those Who Serve Humanity



“Upholding dignity, equity, and access to justice for all vulnerable groups, especially refugees and displaced persons remains our foremost responsibility, even amidst growing global challenges,” said Chairman SHARP, Syed Liaqat Banori, in his special message on [#WorldHumanitarianDay2025](#)

To honor the dedication of humanitarian workers, SHARP-Attock organized a commemorative event with 50 participants from diverse backgrounds. The program featured a tribute with candle lighting and a moment of silence for those who sacrificed their lives in service.

The event also included a panel discussion on field challenges and moving community expressions through poetry and art.





SHARP welcomed a delegation from the Embassy of Ireland in Islamabad, led by Mr. Ben Headon, Head of Consular and Administrative Affairs, and Mr. Zulfiqar. CEO SHARP, Mr. Mudassar Javed, and the program team expressed appreciation for the Embassy's continued support in protection and humanitarian cooperation. Discussions focused on protection concerns in Pakistan, human trafficking, women's and children's rights, MHPSS services, and environmental protection.

Mr. Mudassar highlighted SHARP's global engagement and commended the Embassy's commitment to vulnerable communities. At SHARP's Reception Desk Center (RDC), the delegation received a briefing on operational frameworks, service delivery, and security protocols. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of global partnerships in strengthening humanitarian response and protection.

SHARP welcomed a delegation from ADI Korea, including Mr. Donghwa Lee Selim, Mr. Gwangmin Yu Lesser, and Mr. Youngmin Mini, in Islamabad. Chaired by Mr. Liaqat Banori (Chairman), alongside Mr. Mudassar Javed (CEO) and Mr. Aatif Afzal (Director), the meeting focused on refugee protection challenges and explored collaboration to support Afghan women and youth.

The visit strengthened SHARP's efforts to build global partnerships for the empowerment and well-being of vulnerable communities.



SHARP held a meeting with Ms. Kiran Kaur, Assistant Representative UNHCR, and Ms. Ghazala, Assistant Protection Officer, to discuss the current refugee protection situation amid the IFRP operation. Led by Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal, alongside CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed and the legal team, the discussion focused on urgent challenges faced by refugees. Ms. Kiran commended SHARP's swift frontline response and praised the team's dedication and professionalism.



In Islamabad, SHARP CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed met with Commissioner Afghan Refugees, Mr. Shakeel Muhammad Safi, and Director (SSU) CAR KP, Mr. Fazal Rabbi.

The meeting focused on strengthening coordination and advancing joint efforts to support Afghan refugees and host communities, emphasizing sustainable solutions to ensure protection, resilience, and well-being of vulnerable population.

SHARP's CEO, Mr. Mudassar Javed, had the delightful opportunity to join a vibrant culinary gathering hosted by Ms. Kerstin Hudson and Mr. Arno Kirchhof, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, in honor of Ambassador (des.) Ina Lepel. The evening was more than preparing a traditional German dessert—it became a joyful celebration of cultural exchange, enriched with laughter, learning, and meaningful dialogue. It highlighted the power of food to connect people, foster friendships, and create cherished memories.

In the same spirit of diplomacy and friendship, Mr. Javed also attended the farewell reception of Ms. Cynthia Nichols, Regional Public Engagement Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, appreciating her contributions and commitment to strengthening ties.

These diplomatic engagements reflect SHARP's enduring spirit of collaboration and cultural harmony—celebrating diversity, strengthening partnerships, and fostering bonds that transcend borders in the pursuit of peace and human rights.



SHARP held a high-level meeting with Ms. Roseline Lemire-Cadieux (First Secretary, Migration & Refugee Coordinator) and Ms. Cindy Lam (Global Engagement Officer) from the Canadian High Commission to discuss migration, refugees, and human trafficking.

The visit included a tour of SHARP's Reception Desk Center (RDC), led by CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed, where the team outlined operational structures and protection services. During the meeting, Mr. Mudassar, together with the SHARP team, highlighted key protection challenges such as child trafficking, bonded labor, and exploitation. Both sides agreed to strengthen referral pathways, legal aid, psychosocial support, and explore future collaboration for Afghan refugees.



SHARP's protection team in KP organized a capacity-building workshop at the School of Explosive Handling, District Nowshera, attended by 25 police officials.

The sessions covered human rights and international protection mechanisms, and Chief Guest Mr. Salah-ud-Din Kundi (SP), Director of the School, appreciated the initiative for strengthening police capacities. The workshop concluded with certificate distribution and a vote of thanks.



SHARP, under the Legal Assistance Project (LAPs), organized a Coordination and Liaison Meeting with over 30 participants from 12 national and international NGOs and partners, including WEO, Malteser International, PAHCHAN, INSPIRE Pakistan, SAHIL, PCSW, PODA, Islamic Relief Pakistan, ROZAN, AAR Japan, UNHCR, and IOM. The workshop served as a platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and strategic planning to strengthen protection responses.



ALAC-II Lahore organized two high-impact training workshops at the Police Training School, Police Lines, Lahore, and the DPO Office Sheikhupura. The workshops were graced by senior police officials including Ms. Munazza Karamat, SP (Civil Lines), and Mr. Ghulam Abbas, SP (Special), Sheikhupura, who underscored the importance of balancing firmness with fairness and upholding dignity and justice in policing.

Expert-led discussions by Ms. Arooj Un Nissa (Field Manager, ALAC-II Lahore), Ms. Ghazala Mirza (UNHCR), and Mr. Usman Ghani (Director Legal, CAR Punjab) highlighted constitutional guarantees, international conventions, and the critical role of police in protecting the rights of all individuals—irrespective of nationality or status. Addressing the officers, Mr. Aatif Afzal, Project Director (ICT), emphasized the intrinsic link between human rights and refugee protection, reminding participants that every vulnerable person seeking help must be met with safety, dignity, and justice.



SHARP Protection Team conducted a two-day capacity-building workshop with female police officials at the Capital Police College, Islamabad, focusing on legal protection, gender sensitization, and survivor-centered approaches. Sessions covered SHARP's mandate, human rights and humanitarian laws, legal frameworks for migrants, GBV survivor communication, and referral pathways, complemented by interactive group work. In his address Mr. Sham ul Haq Durrani (Directorate of Intelligence SSP), the Chief Guest, emphasized the role of such initiatives in strengthening institutional capacities. The event concluded with certificate distribution and shields of appreciation.



Prioritizing the capacity-building of law enforcement, SHARP-ALAC III organized a training on Human Rights and Refugee Laws at Police Lines, Chakwal, with 40 police officials in attendance. Mr. Imran Yousafzai (Field Manager) delivered a comprehensive session on SHARP's mission, human rights within national and international frameworks, UNHCR's mandate, and refugee protection with a focus on the Afghan refugee situation in Pakistan. DPO Chakwal, Mr. Ahmad Mohiuddin, commended the initiative, highlighting its importance in equipping police officials with the knowledge and tools to uphold refugee rights effectively.

In District Charsadda, SHARP organized a capacity-building workshop for 25 police officials to enhance their knowledge of Human Rights, protection mechanisms, the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act 2022, and the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018.

The sessions were led by SHARP experts and an IOM representative, who also briefed participants on IOM projects. DSP Headquarters Mr. Gul Wali Khan commended the initiative, and the workshop concluded with certificate distribution and closing remarks by Ms. Memoona Batool, Project Director SHARP KP.



In the last week of August, SHARP KP teams led impactful capacity-building workshops for police officials across Lower Dir, Peshawar, Swabi, Kohat Abotabad, engaging over 140 participants, including Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, and ASIs.

The trainings highlighted SHARP's mandate, the protection project's objectives, key national legislations such as the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018 and the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act 2022, along with international human rights and refugee protection frameworks under UNHCR's mandate. Senior police officials and institutional representatives lauded SHARP's efforts to strengthen law enforcement's role in refugee protection and human rights, reflecting SHARP's commitment to building lasting partnerships that promote accountability, dignity, and resilience for vulnerable communities.

SHARP's Protection Team in Islamabad empowered over 150 police officials through three intensive capacity-building workshops at the Police Training School, Rawat, Rawalpindi. Designed for ASIs undergoing promotion training, the sessions focused on Human Rights, constitutional writs, CrPC provisions, and the protection of vulnerable Afghan nationals.

Delivered by SHARP's legal experts with support from IOM, the workshops combined case studies, group activities, and interactive discussions to link knowledge with practice. Senior officials praised the initiative for strengthening law enforcement capacities, while Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal and Project Manager Ms. Faiza Mir appreciated the participants' active engagement and the Police Department's strong collaboration.





SHARP Timergara, under the ALAC Project, organized a capacity-building workshop at Hayat Hotel for thirty male and female law enforcement officials set for promotion to ASI.

The training covered human rights, national and international protection frameworks, and constitutional writs of Pakistan, facilitated through case studies, group work, and pre- and post-tests. The session concluded with closing remarks by SDPO Mr. Farooq Khan, who appreciated SHARP's efforts to strengthen law enforcement capacities for protecting vulnerable communities.



To expand refugee access to dignified livelihoods, SHARP, in collaboration with UNHCR and Sabawoon Organization, organized two outreach sessions in Peshawar under the Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) Program. Attended by 85 skilled refugees (44 women and 41 men), the sessions focused on international employment opportunities, CV writing, interview skills, and navigating the global job market. The training was facilitated by SHARP's TBB team and Mr. Nadeem Ahmad (TBB Assistant), and observed by Ms. Frida Olofsson from UNHCR, reflecting SHARP's commitment to empowering refugees and building sustainable futures.

Mr. Aatif Afzal (PD-ICT) led a visit to Attock to enhance coordination and review field operations. The team met with UNHCR representatives Mr. Khurram Siddiqui, Ms. Sarwat, and Mr. Mustafa Kamal to discuss programmatic progress of SHARP's newly-established office, focusing on resource optimization and improved refugee services.

PD-ICT also chaired internal review sessions with the RDC and Protection Teams, emphasizing accountability, outreach, and proactive protection response.





SHARP's Child Protection Team organized a one-day training on Children's Rights & Child-Friendly Procedures in Peshawar to strengthen child protection mechanisms. Government officials, Afghan Commissionerate representatives, refugee community elders, village administrators, and partner organizations participated. The training, led by SHARP's Legal Manager Mr. Manzoor and UNHCR's Child Protection Associate Mr. Noor Khan, focused on linking legal frameworks with practical strategies to improve protection and support for children, particularly refugees.



SHARP Protection Team in Mansehra held a capacity-building workshop with duty bearers and police officials on refugee rights and protection frameworks.

Chief Guest DPO Mansehra, Mr. Shafiullah Ghandapur, commended SHARP's role and emphasized the importance of safeguarding human and protection rights, including those of Afghan refugees.



SHARP reaffirmed its commitment to women's rights by participating in an event organized by Afghan Women in Islamabad, highlighting the rights of Afghan women.

SHARP team joined distinguished speakers in pledging solidarity against gender apartheid and advocating for justice, dignity, and equality.



Despite devastating floods in KP and rains in Punjab, SHARP teams remained active in the field. In Swabi, KP, the Protection Team held a community session in Muslim Abad with 51 participants, sharing SHARP–IOM project activities, key protection messages, and guidance on services and voluntary repatriation with dignity.

In Lahore, a youth outreach in Wazirabad engaged displaced Afghan youth to promote participation and awareness. A Broad-Based Community Meeting with 25 Afghan males initiated the formation of a Community-Based Committee, with 10 members nominated to lead efforts on rights awareness and community well-being.



This August, SHARP organized over 16 legal camps across Pakistan under LAP and LAPS project, creating safe spaces where refugees could seek guidance, voice concerns, and access justice. These camps not only protected rights but also strengthened trust and awareness, serving as a crucial link between vulnerable communities and the support they need.

Justice for the Voiceless

A Call for Help, An Answer of Hope

In the narrow lanes of Swabi, a 20-year-old Afghan refugee girl was carrying a weight far heavier than her years but also a light of determination that refused to fade. She wasn't just a student; she was a dreamer. But dreams often collide with harsh realities. Her father struggled as a daily wager, and when the fees for her BS in Diagnostic Medical Sonography piled up, the family fell into debt. It was at this breaking point that she turned to the SHARP helpline. That call was more than a plea for help—it was an act of faith.

The SHARP protection team in Mardan immediately stepped in, verified her case, and reached out for support. Through their referral, Sustaining The Humanity Organization (STH) came forward and raised PKR 369,500 to pay off her dues, saving her final semester and reigniting her hopes. Today, she continues her studies, holding her head high—not just as a student, but as a symbol of resilience. Her story is not just about one girl's struggle; it is about how compassion, timely support, and collective effort can turn despair into possibility.