



Society for Human Rights & Prisoners' Aid

- SERVING HUMANITY
- PROTECTING RIGHTS
- BUILDING PEACE

Monthly **NEWSLETTER** October 2025



26 Year of Partnership



This November marks a proud and significant milestone, 26 years of SHARP-Pakistan's enduring partnership with UNHCR. Throughout these years, we have navigated complex challenges, shifting humanitarian landscapes, operational pressures, and at times, adversity. Yet, our focus has remained unwavering: to serve with integrity, professionalism, and compassion.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, our steadfast dedication, resilience, and sincere service to the refugee communities have strengthened our credibility and deepened the trust placed in us by UNHCR. This journey reflects not only our collective perseverance but also the shared belief that dignity, protection, and hope must remain accessible to those who need them most.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to UNHCR and all other partners for their continued confidence, partnership, and support. Together, we have shaped impactful humanitarian responses and together, we will continue to advance protection, inclusion, and empowerment.

As we move forward, SHARP reaffirms its commitment: for as long as there is a refugees or migrants in Pakistan who needs support, we will stand alongside them. Our vision remains long-term, our resolve remains strong, and our service remains rooted in humanity



Vienna Migration Conference (VMC2025)



SHARP-Pakistan proudly participated in the **Vienna Migration Conference (VMC25)**, organized by the **International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)** on 21–22 October in Vienna — one of the most influential global forums shaping migration policy dialogue. The event gathered senior government officials, policymakers, experts, and civil society leaders to deliberate on migration governance, irregular migration, and strategies for safe and regular mobility.

Pakistan was represented by Mr. Khurram Agha, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Interior, underscoring the country's active engagement in global migration governance. Representing SHARP-Pakistan, **Mr. Syed Liaqat Banori (Chairman)** and Mr. Kashif Mughal joined the global discussions, bringing forward SHARP's national perspective and two decades of experience in migration protection systems, legal aid, and community resilience.

SHARP's participation reinforced its strategic role as a national actor contributing to migration governance in Pakistan — bridging state institutions, civil society, and international partners. Through platforms like VMC25, SHARP continues to advocate for rights-based migration, strengthened protection mechanisms, and evidence-based policymaking, in line with its commitment to safe, dignified, and lawful mobility for all.



Syed Liaqat Banori

Chairman - SHARP
(Pakistan-Afghanistan)



SHARP joins the global community in urging a decisive shift toward investing in preparedness before disasters strike. By strengthening local leadership, empowering communities, and prioritizing risk reduction, SHARP envisions a safer and more sustainable future for all.

In alignment with the theme “Fund Preparedness, Not Disasters,” SHARP proudly stands with GNDR and its global partners in recognizing the tireless efforts of civil society organizations working to reduce disaster risks and protect vulnerable populations.

SHARP's Chairman, Mr. Liaqat Banori, reiterated the organization's collective commitment to building safer, stronger, and more adaptive communities. He emphasized that disasters continue to challenge lives and livelihoods in Pakistan and beyond — yet with the right investments in preparedness, local leadership, and risk reduction systems, hazards can be prevented from escalating into humanitarian crises.

He commended GNDR and its global network for championing community-driven risk management and highlighted the transformative power of civil society when adequately supported. SHARP stands in solidarity with this worldwide movement, advocating that every rupee spent on preparedness today saves lives, restores dignity, and protects futures tomorrow.

Together, SHARP believes it is time to act before disaster strikes — by funding preparedness, not disasters.



SHARP proudly joined the United Nations' 80th anniversary celebrations held in Islamabad and Lahore, a momentous occasion marking eight decades of global commitment to peace, development, and human rights. In Islamabad, SHARP's CEO, Mr. Mudassar Javed, represented the organization, engaging with fellow advocates and exploring avenues for strengthened collaboration. Meanwhile, in Lahore, Ms. Arooj Un Nissa (Field Manager) and Mr. Muhammad Jamil (ALAC Lawyer) participated alongside UNHCR representatives at the Alhamra Arts Center, showcasing SHARP's impactful work and reinforcing partnerships built on shared humanitarian values.



In celebration of unity, diplomacy, and shared progress, CEO Mr. Muhammad Mudassar Javed represented SHARP-Pakistan at the German Unity Day Reception, hosted by H.E. Ina Lepel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, in Islamabad. The event brought together distinguished diplomats and representatives from countries including Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Portugal, Australia, and Morocco, alongside key international organizations such as UNDP, EU, UNHCR, and IOM. SHARP-Pakistan reaffirmed its dedication to strengthening global partnerships, advancing humanitarian cooperation, and promoting rights-based solutions for a more inclusive and equitable world.



We were pleased to welcome Mr. Shabaz Akbar Chaudhary, Executive Director of Speak Trust, to SHARP's Head Office, where he was received by Mr. Mudassar Javed, CEO SHARP. The meeting focused on enhancing support for migrants, returnees, and survivors of human trafficking, exploring innovative approaches to health, education, and inclusive reintegration. Both leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to collaborative, compassion-driven action that promotes dignity, protection, and empowerment for vulnerable communities.



SHARP's Project Director-ICT, Mr. Aatif Afzal, and Media & Communications Coordinator, Ms. Hina Saleem, actively participated in the UNODC Partner Follow-up Workshop on Effective Engagement and Collaboration under the European Union-supported CPTP Project. The three-day workshop convened communication professionals from civil society organizations across Pakistan to strengthen their capacities in storytelling, ethical communication, digital outreach, and collaborative strategies aimed at fostering community resilience and countering violent extremism. During the inaugural session, Syed Arsalan Zaidi, UNODC Advisor, lauded the creative contributions of partner organizations, emphasizing that "strategic and ethical communication is not just about messaging—it is about shaping mindsets, building trust, and sustaining peace narratives." Certificates were also distributed among participants in recognition of their active engagement.

Mr. Aatif Afzal delivered an inspirational address, emphasizing that "storytelling through art and performance remains one of the most powerful tools to counter intolerance and inspire social harmony." Following the screening of SHARP's documentary, presented by Ms. Hina Saleem, on the 'AMAN KAAR – Performers for Peace' initiative, she underscored the pivotal role of strategic communication tools in enhancing visibility, amplifying impact, and effectively conveying messages of peace, inclusion, and social cohesion. Special thanks to the UNODC team for organizing such a forward-looking and dynamic workshop on contemporary communication practices.



Reaffirming SHARP's unwavering commitment to mental health and psychosocial well-being, SHARP's CEO, Mr. Mudassar Javed, recently participated in a comprehensive training organized by GIZ Pakistan on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and leadership under the "Social Support for Vulnerable Afghan Refugees and Host Community (SSARC)" project.

The training focused on enhancing leadership capacity and deepening MHPSS expertise to better support vulnerable individuals experiencing emotional and psychological challenges. This participation highlights SHARP's dedication to advancing protection services, promoting mental well-being, and ensuring that both Afghan refugees and host communities receive compassionate and inclusive psychosocial support.



SHARP Empowers Lawyers through a one-day capacity-building training for 34 lawyers in Lahore, enhancing their knowledge of human rights, international legal frameworks, and laws on deportation, repatriation, and relocation. The interactive session, led by SHARP's legal experts, included discussions, group exercises, and practical assessments to strengthen participants' advocacy and legal practice skills. Representatives from the Lahore Bar Association commended SHARP's continued commitment to advancing legal awareness and human rights education.



SHARP remains dedicated to strengthening the justice sector, recognizing the vital role lawyers play in safeguarding human rights and ensuring legal protection. In this spirit, SHARP's Protection Team organized two dynamic capacity-building workshops for 57 Islamabad-based lawyers, enhancing their understanding of national and international legal frameworks, including laws on deportation, repatriation, and relocation.

The sessions, facilitated by Ms. Aneela Sarfraz (Senior Protection Legal Expert), Ms. Saba, and Mr. Habib Kareem (Protection Lawyers), featured interactive activities such as pre- and post-assessments, group presentations, and case studies. Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal and Project Manager Ms. Huma Aziz opened the sessions by highlighting SHARP's 25 years of service and unwavering commitment to protecting displaced communities.

In his address, CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed emphasized the importance of creating an inclusive and respectful environment for women in the legal field and reaffirmed lawyers' critical role as defenders of justice and human dignity. The Chief Guest, President Islamabad District Bar Association Mr. Ch. Naeem Ali Gujjar, commended SHARP's efforts in building legal capacity and strengthening protection mechanisms. The event concluded with the presentation of commemorative shields, marking a successful step toward advancing human rights and legal empowerment.



Collaboration is the cornerstone of effective humanitarian response — uniting organizations around shared goals to build stronger, more sustainable systems of protection and support. In this spirit, SHARP, in collaboration with its Protection Partner, organized a Coordination & Liaison Workshop with key protection stakeholders in Lahore, marking a vital step toward enhanced cooperation for the well-being of displaced Afghan nationals.

Led and facilitated by Project Director–ICT, Mr. Aatif Afzal, the workshop brought together representatives from civil society organizations, government departments, UN partners, and community-based actors. Participants shared ongoing initiatives, identified potential synergies, and discussed strategies to strengthen referral and response mechanisms for timely and effective support to persons of concern.

A key outcome of the workshop was the nomination of organizational focal persons to improve future coordination, information-sharing, and protection linkages among partners. Reflecting on the importance of partnership, Mr. Aatif Afzal emphasized, “Partnerships built on trust, empathy, and shared purpose are the backbone of sustainable protection systems. When we collaborate, we don't just expand our reach — we multiply our impact.”

The workshop also served as a dynamic platform to reinforce inter-agency collaboration, promote human rights awareness, and build collective momentum for protection and assistance efforts. Special appreciation goes to Field Manager (Lahore) Ms. Arooj-un-Nissa, Project Officer Mr. Noor, and their dedicated teams for their exemplary organization and impactful execution. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to unity, dignity, and shared humanitarian responsibility — reaffirming SHARP's vision of inclusive, coordinated protection for all.





SHARP CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed joined the Executive Council Preliminary Meeting of the Civil Society Alliance on Migration (CSAM), organized in collaboration with IOM Pakistan. The meeting brought together key civil society leaders to discuss joint strategies for inclusive migration governance, policy advocacy, and stronger protection mechanisms for migrants across Pakistan.

Through this alliance, SHARP reaffirms its commitment to amplifying migrants' voices, fostering collaboration, and influencing evidence-based migration policies that ensure dignity, safety, and justice for all.

SHARP remains committed to supporting vulnerable communities by advancing protection, legal assistance, and awareness initiatives. To strengthen protection planning, Mr. Aatif Afzal, Project Director, held a meeting with protection staff from Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, and Lahore to review the 2026 Protection Project extension plan.

Team members provided valuable feedback and practical recommendations to further improve efficiency, outreach, and impact.



SHARP's CEO, Mr. Mudassar Javed, along with Ms. Anila Kanwal (Admin & HR Manager) and Ms. Huma Aziz (Project Manager), held a strategic meeting with the Islamabad and Rawalpindi Protection Teams to discuss the planned staff relocation aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and optimizing resource allocation. Mr. Mudassar commended the teams for their dedication and professionalism, emphasizing that strategic relocations are key to organizational growth and improved service delivery. Ms. Anila and Ms. Huma addressed the administrative and logistical aspects, assuring full HR support to ensure a smooth transition. The meeting concluded with appreciation for the teams' continued commitment and teamwork in advancing SHARP's mission.





SHARP Pakistan hosted the UNHCR Child Protection Unit at its LOP Office in Peshawar to review Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) operations and ongoing child protection initiatives. Participants included Mr. Noor Khan (Protection Associate) and Mr. Adeel (NOA) from UNHCR, along with SHARP team members including Mr. Manzoor Ali (Manager Legal), Mr. Muhammad Waqas (Senior Reporting Officer), and Mr. Adnan (Child Protection Coordinator) with his team. The discussion focused on strengthening coordination, enhancing case management, improving outreach, and ensuring accurate data collection to better support vulnerable children and promote their rights and safety.



In a continued effort to strengthen excellence in service delivery, SHARP CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed led a coordination meeting with the RDC team, recognizing their outstanding dedication and impact. He commended the team's commitment to upholding SHARP's protection standards and shared encouraging feedback from UNHCR on the high quality of services being delivered.

Ms. Anila Kanwal, Admin/HR Manager, also joined in appreciating the team's professionalism and consistent efforts toward achieving organizational goals.

SHARP is honored to support Ms. Mehr Mumtaz, PhD Candidate and Sociology Instructor at The Ohio State University (U.S.), in her doctoral research on Afghan nationals in Pakistan. During her visit, Ms. Mehr met with SHARP's CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed, Project Directors Ms. Memoona Batool Khan and Mr. Aatif Afzal, and engaged with Afghan migrants and stakeholders to study their lived experiences and migration challenges.

Her research explores how policies influence refugee experiences and migration pathways. SHARP continues to promote academic collaboration and evidence-based approaches to strengthen humanitarian and policy responses.





Under the Protection Project, SHARP organized a series of impactful community engagements across Attock and Lahore — including Broad-Based Community Meetings (BBCMs), Community-Based Committee (CBC) meetings, and Legal Camps — reaching over 160 displaced Afghan men and women.

Led by Project Manager Ms. Huma Aziz and supported by dedicated team members including Mr. Mujahid Din, Ms. Irum Gul, Mr. Soharwardi, Mr. Rana Noor, Mr. Azeem-us-Shan, Ms. Mahdia, and Mr. Usman, the activities focused on enhancing legal awareness, promoting access to justice, and strengthening community-based protection structures. Participants were briefed on SHARP's mandate, free legal aid services, and the legal status of Afghan nationals, including challenges faced by both ACC holders and undocumented individuals. Volunteers were nominated for Community-Based Committees (CBCs) to improve coordination with Community Outreach Volunteers (COVs) and strengthen referral and response mechanisms at the grassroots level.

Observed by Ms. Huma Aziz (Project Manager) and Mr. Raheemuddin (M&E Officer) from the Head Office, along with partner representatives, the sessions ensured quality implementation, accountability, and strong community engagement. Despite prevailing uncertainties under IFRP-III, these activities reflected resilience, hope, and the collective pursuit of dignity and rights — reaffirming SHARP's unwavering commitment to protection, empowerment, and collaboration for displaced Afghan communities.



SHARP's Protection Team in Attock held a coordination meeting with the International Medical Corps (IMC) and Lincoln Learning Center (LLC) to enhance joint efforts for displaced Afghan communities. Mr. Salman (Senior Protection Legal Expert) shared SHARP's ongoing legal aid, law enforcement training, and community awareness initiatives, while Ms. Palwasha (IMC) highlighted GBV prevention, survivor support, and psychosocial services. Mr. Nusratullah (LLC) emphasized the right to education for women and children and discussed challenges in housing, healthcare, and police support. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen referral mechanisms, improve service coordination, and ensure better access to protection, education, and essential support for displaced Afghan communities.



SHARP Pakistan continues to foster strong collaboration with key protection stakeholders to enhance support for displaced and refugee communities in Sindh.

SHARP's RDC representatives, Mr. Mateen Zafar (RDC In-Charge) and Ms. Qurat-ul-Ain (RDC In-Charge Karachi), met with Mr. Qaim Uddin (Commissioner CAR Sindh), Mr. Noman Ahmed (Deputy Director), and Mr. Shehzad (PCM Focal Person) to discuss registration updates and IFRP-related matters. The Commissioner appreciated SHARP's professionalism, stakeholder engagement, and 25 years of dedicated humanitarian service, emphasizing collective efforts for community empowerment—particularly among youth.

Additionally, SHARP's team, including Mr. Ilam Uddin Rahimoon (Area Coordinator) and Ms. Qurat-ul-Ain, participated in a stakeholders' consultative meeting at the CAR Sindh Office with SPARC, INSPIRE, IMKAAN, and IMC, reaffirming commitments to strengthened protection and humanitarian coordination. SHARP also hosted a coordination meeting with the International Medical Corps GBV team at its Karachi Office, focusing on GBV case management, protection needs, and enhanced referral mechanisms. Both organizations agreed to maintain close collaboration and regular information sharing to ensure timely and effective support for persons of concern.



Empowerment begins when opportunities meet potential — and SHARP continues to open pathways for refugees to rebuild their futures with dignity and purpose. Under the Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) program, SHARP conducted a Community Outreach Session with the Somali refugee community in Islamabad, aiming to connect skilled refugees with global employment opportunities that promote self-reliance and economic inclusion.

Facilitated by Ms. Rukhsana Jafar (Senior Livelihood Assistant) and co-facilitated by Ms. Fardowsa Abdirahman (Interpreter), the session engaged 22 participants — 12 men and 10 women — who showed strong interest in the initiative. Participants were briefed on eligibility, registration procedures, and the benefits of the TBB program, which links refugees with international employers to help them rebuild their livelihoods abroad. The session concluded with an interactive discussion, where participants expressed appreciation for SHARP's continued efforts to create meaningful employment avenues and promote refugee empowerment through global.

Situation Update

October 2025 has seen a significant escalation in challenges for Afghan migrants and displaced communities in Pakistan. The **Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP)** has been intensified, resulting in increased deportations that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable, including **women, children, mixed-nationality families, and families separated across borders**. Recent **Pak-Afghan border skirmishes** have further complicated the situation, prompting border closures and creating **queues of hundreds of trucks**, restricting the movement of goods and people. These closures, combined with heightened security and administrative measures, have left many migrants stranded at border points and in urban areas, unable to access essential services, livelihoods, or protection mechanisms.

Adding to the crisis, **negative media narratives** and growing public hostility toward Afghan migrants have fueled discrimination and heightened risks of social exclusion. Families already experiencing precarious living conditions now face mounting challenges, with winter approaching, which exacerbates vulnerabilities related to shelter, health, nutrition, and safety, especially for **children and women**. Access to education, medical care, and basic social support has been severely impacted, while mixed-nationality families face complex legal hurdles in maintaining family unity and accessing essential documentation.

SHARP's Response

In this context, SHARP-Pakistan has maintained a **multi-pronged rights-based response**, combining legal support, advocacy, and humanitarian engagement to protect the rights and dignity of Afghan migrants. Key measures include:

- **Legal Assistance:** Providing guidance and representation to vulnerable migrants, including **mixed-nationality families, separated families, and resettlement case holders**, to ensure access to legal remedies, prevent unlawful deportation, and resolve documentation issues.
- **Advocacy & Coordination:** Engaging actively with **government authorities, UN agencies, and humanitarian actors** to highlight protection concerns, ensure humane treatment at borders, and advocate for inclusive policies that prioritize vulnerable populations.
- **Community Outreach & Awareness:** Conducting awareness campaigns on legal rights, reporting mechanisms, and access to humanitarian services to empower migrants and strengthen community resilience.

Through these interventions, SHARP-Pakistan continues to **uphold its commitment to rights-based humanitarian action**, advocating for fair and humane treatment of Afghan migrants, while providing practical legal remedies and support to those most at risk. By combining **direct legal assistance with strategic advocacy**, SHARP aims to mitigate the impact of intensified IFRP measures and border tensions, particularly for the most vulnerable families, ensuring that their rights, safety, and dignity are protected during this challenging period.



As part of its ongoing commitment to ensuring access to justice, SHARP's Protection Team in Lahore organized a Legal Camp for displaced Afghan women, providing a safe and inclusive space for legal information, counseling, and support. The session focused on IFRP-III procedures, repatriation timelines, and post-deadline implications, addressing key concerns with clarity and empathy. Despite prevailing uncertainties, participants expressed trust and confidence in SHARP's continued guidance and assistance, reaffirming the organization's role as a reliable source of protection and legal empowerment.

Closing Note:

Together, we are shaping a safer and more inclusive society. Thank you for being part of SHARP-Pakistan's vision of peace and protection.