

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) CONFERENCE-SENSITIZATION ON THE TURKISH MODEL IN THE CONTEXT OF PAKISTANI LAW

The Civil Society Support Program, in collaboration with District Administration Umerkot, organised a conference on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)-Sensitization on the Turkish Model in the Context of Pakistani Law on January 18, 2023 in district Umerkot under the project Joint Social Action.



The purpose of this conference was to highlight the importance of ADR in Pakistani society and to propose methods to improve the mechanism by reflecting on the Turkish Model of ADR in the context of Pakistani law. The conference was attended by top-notch judicial and legal experts in Sindh, including former judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the honorable Mr. Justice Arif Hussain Khilji; judge of the Sindh High Court, Mr. Justice Zafar Sherwani; and District and Sessions Judge Umerkot. Mr. Abdul Waheed Sheikh, Judge, Family Court, Umerkot Ms. Aliya Kaimkhani, Deputy Commissioner of Umerkot, Dr. MB Raja Dharijo, SSP Umerkot, Ijaz Ahmed Sheikh, all SDPOs of the district, the in-charge of the Women's Cell, and the in-charge of DIB.



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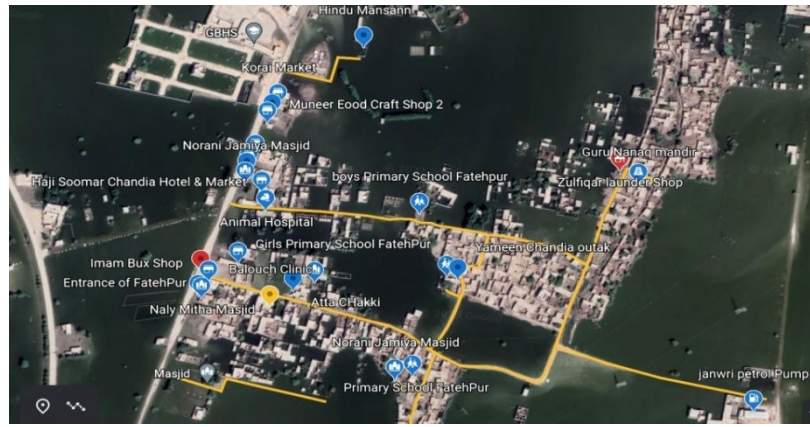
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CSSPPakistan

PLANNING FOR REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGES AT DISTRICT DADU

CSSP, in collaboration with team IRIS under the Collective Action Consortium conducted data collection and digital mapping in 15 flood-affected villages of District Dadu, Taluka Khairpur Nathan Shah, with the overall objective of creating a cost-effective, sustainable village development model. The consortium's approach involves joint efforts and information sharing among member organizations, as well as leveraging past experiences to replicate successful models. The data collection exercise aimed to gather information on the current situation in the affected villages, including the extent of damage caused by the floods and the needs of the local communities. The data collected will be used to develop an action plan that addresses the most pressing issues and provides a sustainable solution for long-term development.



INTRODUCING COTTAGE INDUSTRY TRADE FOR YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY

In district Mirpurkhas, The Civil Society Support Program has established a youth incubation centre where a variety of cottage industry-related trades have been introduced.. The center has set up various machines to produce products that are used in daily routines for the individuals especially youth and women who are receiving entrepreneurial trainings by CSSP. These machines include surf making, soap making, oil extraction, animal feed, slippers making, color making, dung wood, masala making, and shampoo production machines. The center is designed to provide opportunities for individuals who are unable to secure employment in various sectors or have limited options for earning a livelihood.



"HARMONY BREAKFAST": CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND INTERFAITH UNITY

On February 5, 2023, the Youth Leaders Core Group of Hyderabad's six union councils under the project Shared Future of Civil Society Support Program arranged a 'Harmony Breakfast' to commemorate the World Interfaith Harmony Week, which is devoted to promoting harmony among people of all faiths. These young people from different backgrounds of faith came together for a meal where they shared traditional dishes with each other and celebrated World Interfaith Harmony Week. The aim of the event was to promote peace, respect, and understanding between those who practice various religions.

The Breakfast table was filled with a variety of flavors and delicious breakfast items which represented cuisine of different cultures brought by all participants. The members of the youth group were eager to get to know one another in a lively, welcoming environment. They were engaged in different activities, songs, and exchanged their unique experiences of promoting peace and harmony. They came to the realization that despite having various beliefs and ways of life, everyone shared a desire for peace, justice, and harmony around the world.



AWARENES RAISING SEMINAR ON PROMOTING AND PROTECTING SOCIAL COHESION AND RULE OF LAW

The Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) organized an awareness-raising seminar on promoting and protecting social cohesion and the rule of law on February 15, 2023, in collaboration with the District Police Hyderabad, Government of Sindh.

The event was held to provide awareness to youth leaders and communities about the role of law enforcement agencies in maintaining peace and harmony. It also aimed to provide support and information on available services and mechanisms and to strengthen two-way communication for promoting and protecting social cohesion and the rule of law.

Mr. Amjad Shaikh, SSP Hyderabad, Ms. Aleena Rajper, ASP Hyderabad, as well as various religious leaders, social activists, and civil society organizations, attended the seminar.



HOLI: FESTIVAL OF COLORS AND LOVE

The Civil Society Support Program under its various projects celebrated Holi in district Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, and Umerkot. On March 7, 2023, the Umerkot Citizen Forum, in association with the Civil Society Support Program, organized a grand Holi commemoration event at the Sindh Agriculture University Campus Umerkot. Provincial Minister of Sindh for Education, Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities and Archives, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, and MNA Mir Munawar Ali Talpur made a special appearance at the occasion. Worthy Vice Chancellor of the Sindh Agriculture University Mr. Fateh Muhammad Marri, SAU Umerkot Sub-Campus Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad Marri, Muslim religious leader Arbab Naik Muhammad, Hindu religious leader Prof. Jethanand, Pandit Ginu Mal, Christian religious leader Pastor Younis, and Ester Shakeel also attended the event. In addition to this, a large number of participants including research scholars, professors, lecturers, social experts, political and religious leaders, students, and female students who were participating in the ongoing international conference on the diversity of the Earth Zone hosted by the Sindh Agriculture University Campus District Umerkot also joined the Holi celebration. As part of the event, a theater was performed on the famous folktale of Sindh 'Umer Marvi' by the renowned drama team of Bhitai Arts Council of Hyderabad.

On March 15, 2023, the Civil Society Support Program celebrated Holi in Azad Nagar, Mori Mangar, and Hyderabad, which brought together people from different communities and backgrounds. Among the community of six union councils, various religious leaders, scholars, members of civil society, and social activists attended and celebrated the colors of love and joy. As part of the event, a theater was performed by the young people with a message of peace and equality. Moreover, many other fun filled performances themed around Holi were performed.



The Civil Society Support Program in collaboration with SPO, and NCA Pakistan celebrated Holi in district Mirpurkhas as part of the International Women's Day event on March 8, 2023 with women community leaders from different from three districts of Sindh including Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, and Umerkot.





1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES (ICWEO) 2023

1st International Conference on Women Entrepreneurship Challenges and Opportunities (ICWEO) 2023 Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) took part in a two-day "International Conference on Women Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities" on February 15 and 16, 2023, at the Technology Incubation Center, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Sindh Jamshoro. At the conference, CSSP set up a stall to inform visitors about their interventions through documentaries, presentations, brochures, and reports.

The conference was attended by youth leaders from six union councils. Mr. Noor Mohammad Bajeer, CEO of CSSP, participated in a panel discussion session on "The Role of Incubation Centers in Uplifting Women Entrepreneurship and the Startup Ecosystem." CSSP participated in the conference, through their stall and panel discussion, highlighted their commitment to supporting women entrepreneurs and promoting a startup ecosystem that is inclusive and supportive of women.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

On March 8th, 2023, the Civil Society Support Program, in collaboration with SPO and NCA Pakistan, organized a Women's Day event in the district of Mirpurkhas, which highlighted the achievements of local women from Sanghar, Umerkot, and Mirpurkhas.

The event, which was based on the theme of "Embrace Equity," aimed to promote gender equality and celebrate the contributions of women in the region.

The event also included an awards ceremony, where Six women leaders from the three districts were recognized for their outstanding contributions in their communities. The awardees shared their stories of overcoming obstacles and breaking down barriers to achieve their goals.

Overall, the Women's Day event in Mirpurkhas was a resounding success, showcasing the resilience, strength, and ingenuity of local women. It served as a powerful reminder of the importance of gender equity and the need to continue supporting women's empowerment efforts in the region.



EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH CREATING SOCIO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Under the youth employment and skill development component of CSSP, the team CSSP successfully constructed and equipped 20 Rozgar Center (RCs) in districts Sanghar and Mirpurkhas under its project intervention Power To Youth and five RCs in district Mirpurkhas under the project “Creating Equal Opportunities for Socioeconomic Empowerment of Marginalized Communities” with various amenities like solar systems, tree plantation, and basic supplies. Through these RCs various Technical and Vocational Education and Training are being facilitated. Market-based skills training for trades such as Dress Making, Embroidery/ Applique, and Beautician is also being provided in these Rozgar centers. A total of 500 trainees have completed the course till the month of February. Most of the trainees who received these training have started earning by establishing their business corners. Currently, multiple trade-based skills are being provided in 14 RCs, including office automation, digital marketing, motorcycle repairing, mobile repairing, solar/electrician courses, beautician, and dressmaking courses. There are currently 190 enrolled trainees in the RCs of Mirpurkhas and 201 in the RCs of Sanghar.



TRAINING OF COMMUNITY LEADERS CORE GROUP

The Civil Society Support Program conducted training for the Community Leaders Core Group as a part of the Shared Future Socio-Economic Cooperation for a Better Future Project. The training was conducted by six union councils in Hyderabad with the participation of 50 community leaders in two batches.



The training was centered on promoting interfaith harmony- the concept of various religious communities coexisting in peace and respect. The main purpose of the training was to improve the community leaders' capacity for leadership and knowledge to promote interfaith harmony in their communities. The training was particularly intended for the Community Leaders Core Group because they are considered as significant contributors in promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence in their respective communities. The training is anticipated to help create communities that are more inclusive and harmonious.



YOUTH ACTIVISM TRAINING ON “LEADERSHIP SKILLS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT”



The Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) organized a series of 25 three-day training sessions in District Mirpurkhas on Leadership Skills, Climate Change, and Youth Empowerment, under the project “Power to Youth” funded by the European Union (EU) benefiting a total of 625 youths. The training aimed to improve the knowledge and capacity building of young people in the areas of leadership, climate change, and youth empowerment, and upon completion of each session, participants developed community action plans that focused four thematic areas.



Including Health and Hygiene, Climate Change, Youth Leadership, and Socioeconomic Mapping and Youth Empowerment. Key outcomes of the program included five youth leaders receiving recognition awards, a youth-led plantation drive that planted 550 trees in district Mirpurkhas, 25 health and hygiene sessions held in schools and colleges.