



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 05 | Oct-Dec 2024



Connect for More Updates



- CSSPPakistan
- CSSPPakistan_
- CSSPPakistan
- cssppakistan
- www.cssp.org.pk

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SOCIAL COHESION

Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Joint Festivals

On November 5, 2024, CSSP organized a vibrant Diwali celebration in Hyderabad, bringing together community youth, civil society activists, and individuals from diverse religious backgrounds to celebrate the festival of lights. The event aimed to promote interfaith harmony, with religious leaders from Hindu, Christian, and Muslim communities sharing messages of peace, coexistence, and mutual respect.



CSSP celebrated Christmas in Hyderabad on December 21 and in Karachi on December 30, bringing together over 450 participants from various faiths, including community faith leaders and civil society youth, to promote unity and social cohesion. In Hyderabad, more than 300 people enjoyed vibrant performances, including tableaux and dramas, while religious leaders shared messages of peace, love, and interfaith harmony. The Karachi celebration, attended by over 150 participants, featured youth performances and speeches focused on unity, mutual respect, and the importance of supporting minority communities. Both events highlighted the universal spirit of Christmas, emphasizing peace and respect across communities.



Umerkot Cultural Festival

A vibrant one-day cultural festival was held in Umerkot, organized by the CSSP in collaboration with the Umerkot Citizens Forum (UCF). The event brought together community members, students, writers, intellectuals, and government officials to celebrate heritage and progress. The event featured expert-led panel discussions that highlighted the achievements of CSSP's Community Peace Groups in implementing the Hindu Marriage Act and facilitating the registration of Pandits. The discussions also showcased the significant contributions of the District Women Group, emphasizing their role in promoting gender equality and community development. The festival

also marked the launch of CSSP's publication, "Akhiyun Ditho Umerkot," a literary work celebrating the rich cultural and historical tapestry of Umerkot. In his keynote Speech Sindh's Provincial Minister for Education, Syed Sardar Ali Shah said that, 'Events like these not only provide entertainment but also spotlight the incredible efforts of communities working for peace, inclusivity, and progress'. The festival featured traditional music, folk dances, and storytelling, making it a vibrant celebration of Sindh's heritage. The attendees appreciated the initiative and called for more such events to continue promoting unity, cultural pride, and social awareness.



A Journey to Inclusion: Celebrating the Impact of Joint Social Action

On December 30, 2024, CSSP hosted an event titled "A Journey to Inclusion: The Impact of Joint Social Action" in Karachi, celebrating five years of promoting social cohesion in Umerkot. The objective was to reflect on the impact of a program that has successfully completed its five-year journey under the Joint Social Action for an Inclusive Society initiative. Senator Ponjo Mal Bheel praised CSSP's efforts, calling for an inclusive society free of religious misunderstandings. Maulana Ghulam Raza Sariwal and Father Daniel Fayaz emphasized the importance of interfaith harmony and human-centric leadership. CSSP CEO, Mr. Noor Bajeeer highlighted the program's successful approach in mobilizing local leaders and collaborating with government departments to foster peace and prevent violence. A panel discussion featured representatives from the Umerkot Citizens Forum (UCF), District Women Group (DWG), and Community Peace Groups, who shared the impactful initiatives supported by CSSP. These included the implementation of the Hindu Marriage Act, minority protection policies, joint religious celebrations, and capacity-building programs for police and local peace structures. The event highlighted how CSSP's efforts enabled these groups to lead community-driven actions, fostering peace, interfaith harmony, and social inclusion across the region.



Delegation Visits CSSP's Shared Futures Project

On November 13-14, 2024, CSSP hosted a delegation from Kerk in Actie (KIA), including Martin, Program Officer, and Mr. Sebastian Justin, Pakistan Program Coordinator, to assess the progress of the Shared Futures project. The visit included meetings with project staff, youth beneficiaries, and local authorities, ensuring alignment with project goals and addressing areas for improvement. Mr. Martin

and Mr. Sebastian visited ZABTech to interact with TVET trainees, toured youth-run businesses supported by the project, and met with key figures like Mr. Tahir Ahmed Noorani and Inspector Munawar David to strengthen collaboration with local police. They also visited the Minority Facilitation Desk in Hyderabad and a local Gurdwara to promote inclusivity and interfaith dialogue.



Exposure Visit of Umerkot Citizens Forum (UCF) & District Women Group (DWG)

From November 5-9, 2024, CSSP organized an exposure visit to Islamabad for a delegation from the Umerkot Citizen Forum (UCF) and District Women Group (DWG). The 10-member delegation visited prominent institutions, including the Rahmat-ul-Alameen and Khatam-un-Nabeen Authority and the Christian Study Center. They also participated in a session on the socio-cultural scenario of Umerkot at Black Hole Islamabad. The visit aimed to facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the community structure and diverse stakeholders, with the goal of strengthening civil society initiatives and building partnerships for a more inclusive community.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN

Supporting Youth and GBV Survivors through Entrepreneurship

CSSP has provided seed capital to 46 individuals, including 35 youth and 12 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), in the districts of Mirpurkhas and Sanghar. These individuals, who had completed Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs and received certifications, are now pursuing entrepreneurial ventures in fields such as solar electrician services, motorbike repair, dressmaking, digital marketing, and beautician services. This initiative aims to empower low-income youth and GBV survivors by providing them with the resources needed to scale up their businesses,

supporting their socioeconomic growth, and fostering financial independence and resilience.

In addition to launching individual businesses, 75 youth entrepreneurs in Hyderabad have successfully started businesses in various sectors, including beauty salons, tailoring, barbering, and electrical services. Moreover, 4 youth entrepreneurs have partnered to establish two Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), highlighting the importance of collaboration and teamwork in driving economic success and long-term sustainability.



Empowering Youth through Skill Development Trainings

CSSP continues to provide ongoing skill development training in Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, and Hyderabad, enhancing youth employability and empowering them to make meaningful contributions to their communities. Currently, 1,684 youth, consisting of 853 females and 814 males from diverse backgrounds, are enrolled in training programs across these regions. The courses offered include various trades such as dressmaking, beautician services, motorbike and mobile repairing, solar technician skills, digital marketing,





office automation, graphic designing, and health-related fields such as nursing, dental assistance, lab technician training, and midwifery. Led by experienced trainers, these programs focus on practical skills that enhance employability and support both personal and professional growth. With positive feedback from participants, the ongoing trainings aim to equip youth with the tools they need to succeed in their chosen fields, fostering greater community development and empowerment

Nisha's Path to Financial Independence



Nisha Zulfiqar, a young woman from a humble Christian family, had her life transformed through the CSSP Shared Futures Program. Financial constraints forced Nisha to leave school after the 8th grade and work at a salon to support her family. Shy and reserved, she rarely interacted with people outside her immediate circle, limiting her exposure and confidence.

Her life changed when she joined the CSSP Shared Futures Program as a youth leader. Through activism training, Nisha overcame her shyness, interacted with people from diverse backgrounds, and participated in interfaith events, which broadened her perspective. The program also equipped her with entrepreneurial skills, including business planning. With the program's financial support, Nisha set up her own beauty salon achievement she once thought impossible. Today, Nisha is financially independent, contributing to her family's income while building her future. . Today, Nisha is a proud business owner, contributing to her household income and planning to expand her salon into a high-quality establishment. Her story is a testament to how opportunities and support can empower individuals to transform their lives and achieve self-reliance.



16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, led by the Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP), brought attention to the critical issues surrounding violence against women and girls. This year's campaign was marked by powerful initiatives, including a Provincial Stakeholder Consultation, engaging community awareness sessions, and an impactful social media campaign.

Community Awareness Sessions

In Community Awareness Sessions, local communities in regions like Sanghar and Mirpurkhas were actively engaged through art workshops, theater performances, and dialogues. These sessions aimed to empower participants with knowledge on gender rights and encourage them to become active agents of change in their own communities.



Social Media Campaign

The social media campaign for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence highlighted critical issues such as workplace harassment, cyber harassment, child marriage, and domestic violence. Through the hashtag #NoExcuse, the campaign raised awareness of these pervasive forms of violence, emphasizing that there is no justification for any type of abuse.

Provincial Stakeholder Consultation



One of the key highlights was the Provincial Stakeholder Consultation held in Karachi on November 27, 2024, which brought together over 100 participants, including government officials, legal experts, community leaders, and civil society representatives. The consultation focused on the effective implementation of pro-women laws in Sindh, such as the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act, Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, and Sindh Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act. The event emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to address gender-based violence. Key speakers, including Mr. Noor Muhammad Bajeer, CEO of CSSP, and Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, highlighted the importance of strengthening institutional frameworks and engaging communities in the fight against violence. Success stories from role model women were shared, inspiring hope and advocacy for women's rights. The consultation concluded with the presentation of a Charter of Demand, outlining key priorities such as capacity building for law enforcement, enhanced access to legal aid, and improved collaboration between government bodies and civil society organizations.



International Volunteer Day



On International Volunteer Day (December 5), the campaign celebrated the invaluable contributions of youth volunteers. The "Voices for Change" event in Mirpurkhas showcased over 250 participants, who united to pledge for safer communities free from violence. The youth-led workshops, theater performances, and social media actions emphasized that everyone has a role to play in ending gender-based violence.

International Human Rights Day

The campaign concluded on International Human Rights Day (December 10) with an inspiring art workshop and theater performance in Mirpurkhas. Children displayed powerful artwork, while a community theater group delivered a compelling performance addressing issues like child marriage and domestic violence.



Mirpurkhas Climate March



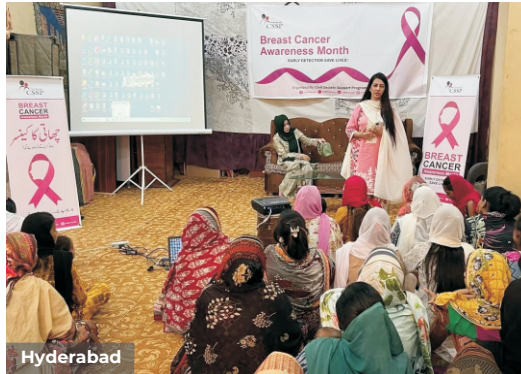
CSSP organized a Climate March in the villages of Mirpurkhas on DATE, led by flood-affected communities, to raise awareness about the region's vulnerability to climate disasters. The march saw active participation from the local residents, District Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and civil society. The march brought together a diverse group of participants, including women, men, and children, who carried placards and posters advocating for climate action, environmental preservation, and responsible land and water usage highlighting the importance of building climate-resilient infrastructure and promoting awareness at the Union Council level to tackle climate challenges. The march also featured a theater performance by the CSSP Youth Group, engaging the audience through storytelling and highlighting the impacts of climate change on local communities and the urgent need for action.

Pink October: CSSP Spreads Awareness for Breast Cancer Prevention

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October 2024, CSSP organized informative sessions to raise awareness about breast cancer within local communities in the districts of Hyderabad, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, and Umerkot. Over 500 women and young girls were educated on the importance of early detection, self-examination techniques, and recognizing warning signs. The sessions encouraged open dialogue, empowering participants to take proactive steps in safeguarding their health.



Sanghar



Hyderabad



Umerkot

International Day of the Girl Child

CSSP commemorated the International Day of the Girl Child in October 2024 with impactful events across Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, and Sanghar, under the theme "Girls' Vision for the Future." The events aimed to empower young girls and encourage community dialogue on the challenges they face, including early child marriages, and opportunities to elevate their role in society. Focusing on children's rights, safety, and community-level issues, the sessions included discussions on creating a brighter future. Over 500 girls and community members participated, sharing their aspirations and ideas. Students also engaged in activities highlighting children's rights, including a creative drawing exercise where they envisioned their future roles and contributions.



CREATING STRONG COMMUNITIES THROUGH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

SindhNet Launches to Strengthen Civil Society Collaboration

On November 28, 2024, SindhNet, a coalition of 11 leading Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Sindh, was officially launched at a ceremony in Karachi. The event, attended by over 200 participants, including government officials, development experts, media professionals, and community leaders, marked a pivotal moment in fostering collective action for Sindh's socio-economic and environmental challenges. SindhNet aims to enhance coordination, promote accountability, and drive advocacy to amplify the impact of development efforts across the region. The coalition includes prominent

organizations such as the Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP), HANDS Pakistan, DevCon, SPARC, LHDP, Indus Consortium, MDF, Goth Seengar Foundation, SPO, and PVDP Sindh. Key dignitaries, including Mr. Mir Tariq Talpur, Sindh's Minister of Social Welfare and Development, praised SindhNet's mission in his keynote address, pledging government support. Other notable figures, such as Ms. Shereen Mustafa and Mr. Riaz Shah Sheerazi, Minister of Religious Affairs, also commended the initiative's vision of uniting CSOs for sustainable development.



Civil Society Organizations Unite for Youth Empowerment

Under the Civil Society Support Program (CSSP), the "Power to the Youth" project organized a series of impactful events in collaboration with leading CSOs, including PVDP Sindh, ARTS Foundation Sindh, Sindh Community Foundation (SCF), and Peace Foundation. These events brought together over 1,000 young participants alongside representatives from government departments, media, social activists, and community stakeholders. The events addressed critical issues such as climate change, gender equality, and youth empowerment through expert panels, youth-led discussions, and theater performances. By encouraging dialogue and collaboration, these events empowered young individuals in District Mirpurkhas to advocate for social change while strengthening partnerships between CSOs and other key stakeholders to tackle pressing societal challenges.



Provincial Consultation on Creating an Enabling Environment for women and girls

On November 7, 2024, CSSP, in collaboration with NCA Pakistan, held a provincial consultation in Karachi on creating an enabling environment for women and girls to live empowered lives. The event brought together key stakeholders, including the Minister for Women Development, the Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, civil society organizations (CSOs), faith leaders, women activists, and networks like the Women Leadership Forum (WLF) and Community Support Group (CSG). Discussions centered on addressing policy gaps, strengthening referral systems, and adopting a survivor-centered approach to support Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors. The consultation

resulted in commitments from government representatives to enhance GBV support mechanisms and raise public awareness. Local activists presented a Charter of Demands, highlighting resource gaps in Mirpurkhas. The Minister for Women Development, Ms. Shaheena Sher Ali, and the SHRC Chairperson pledged to strengthen referral systems and ensure timely justice for survivors. Emphasizing cross-sector collaboration, the consultation highlighted the importance of continued partnerships between civil society, government, and communities to promote women's rights and safety across Sindh.



Local & Public Stakeholders Coordination Meetings

CSSP hosted a Local & Public Stakeholders Coordination meetings were held in district Sanghar which was attended by representatives from organizations and departments such as the Labor Department, NAVTTC, Polytechnic Institute, Social Welfare Department, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Ehsaas Program, and others, alongside the youth participants. The meeting focused on creating sustainable employment opportunities by enhancing youth readiness through internships, industrial exposure, career counseling, and entrepreneurial support.

In addition, a meeting was held with public sector focal points at the Women Development Department to enhance collaboration on youth and women's inclusion. The meeting focused on strengthening coordination to address the needs of low-income youth and women and ensuring access to resources like Safe Houses and confidential complaint mechanisms.



Webinars

CSSP hosted two impactful webinars in November 2024. The first, "Transforming Passion into Purpose: Inspiring Youth-Led Change in a Vibrant Society" on November 19, featured Mr. Aijaz Bajwa, Director of Endeavour College, and Mr. Muhammad Noman, CEO of Montash Vocational Technical Training Institute, focusing on empowering youth to create change. The second, "Local Actions, Global Impact: The Role of CSOs in Sustainable Development" on November 21, brought together Ms. Firdous Sangi, Executive Director of ABCD, Mr. Mustafa Baloch, Development Professional, and Mr. Hassan Jamil, Manager at Global School Leaders, to discuss the role of CSOs in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Funded by the European Union

NCA actalliance

CSSP

Webinar

LOCAL ACTIONS, GLOBAL IMPACT: ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

21-November-2024 04 PM to 05 PM Live on CSSPPAKISTAN

Meet our Speakers



Mr. Shahzad Ali
Moderator
Civil Society Support Program (CSSP)



Ms. Firdous Sangi
Executive Director,
Association for a Better Community



Mr. Mustafa Baloch
Civil Society Activist
& Development Professional



Mr. Hassan Jamil
Manager,
Special Projects at
Global School Leaders

CSSPPAKISTAN CSSPPakistan_ CSSPPAKISTAN cssp.org.pk

Funded by the European Union

NCA actalliance

CSSP

Webinar

TRANSFORMING PASSION INTO PURPOSE: INSPIRING YOUTH-LED CHANGE IN VIBRANT SOCIETY

Tuesday, 19th November, 2024 04 PM to 05 PM Live on CSSPPAKISTAN

Meet our Speakers



Ms. Ambreen Jarwar
Moderator
Civil Society Support Program (CSSP)



Ms. Hameeda Baloch
Founder
Orataq Organization



Mr. Aijaz Bajwa
Director
Endeavour College
Tando Allahyar







Mr. Muhammad Noman
Chief Executive Officer
Montash Vocational Technical
Training Institute, Hyderabad

CSSPPAKISTAN CSSPPakistan_ CSSPPAKISTAN cssp.org.pk

CONNECT

-  CSSPPakistan
-  CSSPPakistan_
-  CSSPPakistan
-  csspakistan

CONTACT

-  www.cssp.org.pk
-  info@cssp.org.pk
-  022-2102822 | 022-2676385
-  House# A-28, Phase-II,
Near Ali Palace, Qasimabad,
Hyderabad.

