

LIVELIHOOD & FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

Capacity-building training on Organic Farming and Composting in Hyderabad

On 10th September 2021, Caritas Pakistan Hyderabad organized a capacity-building training session for farmers on organic farming and composting at Khaku Machi Village, Hosri. Professor Dr. Ismail Khumbar (Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam) and his assistance led the training session; talked about the importance of organic farming and the demerit of non-organic farming in detail. Followed by the agriculture experts gave a demo at the field to farm an organic fertilizer by engaging the participants. The organic fertilizer was prepared through natural and waste material i.e. molasses, vegetable waste, dry leaves, etc. Before the session, Mr. Mukhtar Gill Program Coordinator briefed the purpose of training and urged the participants to take an active part in the training to get maximum learning from experienced agriculture experts. According to the participants, this training was very helpful for them and they will follow this exercise in their farming practices.



District Forum Meeting under Smallholder Adaptive Farming Project in Lahore

Caritas Pakistan Lahore organized a district forum meeting under smallholder adaptive farming project on September 2, 2021 at Bhambowali Gujranwala with agriculture extension, forest department, rural health, and local farmers. Mr. Rafiq Inayat Project Officer shared that the basic purpose of district forum meeting is to build a strong relationship between government departments and smallholder farmers which can play a positive role to highlight the issues of farmers and resolve those issues and challenges. "This platform also provides the opportunity to share information about schemes announced by different government departments which can be beneficial for smallholder farmers", he said. Mr. Muhammad Pervez Agriculture Officer, agriculture extension department shared that government is providing subsidies to farmers on fertilizers, seeds and pesticides through Kisan Card and every Kisan Cardholder farmer can avail this facility. Now all the government facilities will be available only for the Kisan Cardholders in future. He said "Government is providing machineries on subsidy for small farmers. Some other schemes are in pipeline which will be announced in coming months". Mr. Gulam Mustafa Forest Department said that "trees are important for climate change in Pakistan and these trees provide other benefits like financial, commercial, environmental etc. We provide education about trees both shadow and fruit trees and give tree saplings on subsidy rate. He promised to continue cooperation in this regard with Caritas and farmers". During the meeting, Caritas team and representatives of smallholder farmers put some questions and queries about their schemes which were addressed by relevant government officers. After the meeting, Mr. Muhammad Pervez Agriculture Officer also visited the demo plot of rice crop and monitored the progress of the crop and suggested the area of improvement for better crop.



Kisan card facilitation program in Khushab

CPIR under its SAFBIN project on 6 and 8 August 2021 organized Kisan Card facilitation program in Chak No. 34DB and 59 Mb in district Khushab and 34 SB In district Sargodha with the collaboration of agriculture extension department and HBL Connect. 124 farmers were benefited. Tehsil In charge HBL Connect Kisan Card program Mr. Ghulam Zaheer in 59 MB Mr Shaheen in 34 DB and from agriculture extension department agriculture officer Muhammad Yaseen and other staff were also participated. They briefed the procedure before starting the program. Farmers were thankful to SAFBIN staff for facilitation



Training on Organic Farming in Gujranwala

Caritas Pakistan Lahore conducted training on organic farming under the Smallholder Adaptive Framing Project with farmers at village Bhambowali, District Gujranwala on August 25 in collaboration with Indus Farmer Association Muridke, Punjab. The purpose of this training was to provide awareness and training to small farmers on organic farming. Mr. Rafiq Inayat (Project Officer) described about organic farming, its importance and benefits for land, public as well as environment. He highlighted different methods of organic farming.



SOCIAL HARMONY

Faith formation seminar for youth in Ayubia

A faith based Capacity Building seminar of 3 days for Catholic Students from 12 parishes was organized by Caritas Faisalabad and Catholic Diocese of Faisalabad under the kind supervision of His Excellency Bishop Dr. Indrias Rehmat from 29th-31st August 2021 at Murree, Ayubia. Bishop Indrias Rehmat, Mr. Aneel (Diocesan Head Caritas Pakistan Faisalabad) Rev. Fr. Mushtaq Anjum (MI), Rev. Fr. John Vianney, Rev. Najma Martha (OP) and sister Adeela (OP) attended. For most of the students, it was their first chance for such an event.



It was the biggest learning platform for them to explore and develop their faith and the Catholic Community, they said the programs began with Holy Mass. The speakers shared about benefits of Positive learning, approaches, practices for the development of Catholic Youth, role of youth in church, Value of Leadership skills and Social Harmony among Christians, Church and the importance of Church in a Catholic's life. Visit to the historical church of Ayubia, confession sacrament were the part of this immensely spiritual/ social initiative for the development of youngsters. Each one of them was given the chance to share about their faith and perspectives about being Christian and living in a country where they are a minority. It helped everyone to learn more about how to face the everyday challenges at their school, college and universities. At the end of the seminar His Excellency Bishop Dr. Indrias Rehmat blessed each one of the participant and send them with a blessing to serve the Lord as the disciples with their actions and behaviors.

International Youth Day celebrated in Islamabad

On 12 August 2021, International Youth Day was celebrated with residents of Rimsha Colony H-9/2 Islamabad. SCP team, volunteers and apprentices participated in the program. Participants were briefed about Caritas Pakistan Islamabad Rawalpindi and International Youth Day by Social Mobilizer Sehrish Ashraf. PST Cynthia Riaz, explained about this year's theme of international youth day "Transforming food system and: Youth Innovation for human and Planetary Health".



Participants were told about what a food system is and how youth can help in food chain and ways to improve planet's health by changing our methods of living slightly. Clinical Psychologist Laiba Syed was invited to speak on Role of Youth in betterment of Pakistan's future. She explained the about the psychological problems youth are facing in today's time and how they can be addressed and treated to make youth a vital part for Pakistan's prosperity in coming years.

Skills Development center inaugurated for Karachi youth

Caritas Pakistan Karachi has inaugurated a skills development center to encourage Christian entrepreneurs in the seaport city. Sixty youths began classes in the diocesan unit after the Sept. 6 inauguration in collaboration with the Divine Hope Foundation, a Catholic youth group. The institute offers training in subjects including fashion design, tailoring, computers and English language.



Certificates will be issued to those candidates who pass final tests after undergoing the free three-month courses. "More than 100 applications were received but only 20 youngsters were selected for each course to avoid gathering amid the fourth wave of coronavirus. Most of the students learning tailoring are illiterate," said Mr. Mansha Noor, executive secretary of Caritas Pakistan Karachi.

"Their products will be shared on social media groups. We are developing a women entrepreneurs' group through education and capacity building. Unemployment and alcohol/drug addiction remain major concerns among local Christian youths. The skills will help them survive in the private sector. Very few avail job opportunities in government departments plagued by nepotism."

Mr. Amjad Gulzar, National Executive Director of Caritas Pakistan was the Chief Guest of Inauguration Ceremony of Caritas Skill Development Center under the Youth development program of Caritas Pakistan. Mr. Amjad Gulzar in his remarks said that that skills and Education is very importance for the youth for the development. He appreciated Caritas Karachi and Divine Hope Foundation to uplift the youth by providing skills in different trades to increase their income and improve their livelihood.

He concluded his remarks said God gave you golden opportunity to become skillful and getting training in different traders under good environment and experiences teachers, so leant the training with enthusiasms and interest.

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Caritas calling

Together We Proceed....



Note by:
Amjad Gulzar
Executive Director

Dear Readers

Current pandemic has fundamentally changed the whole world, but we all have learned to live with it. We thought that things are coming back to a normal then all of a sudden that delta variant reversed the transition. Whereas, the emergence of other diseases like dengue fever posed further challenges as the number of Corona cases were gradually declining while dengue virus is rapidly spreading in Punjab. In this regard, Caritas Pakistan launched a Malaria, dengue and COVID-19 awareness campaign under the project of "Wash Initiative in Remote areas of Pakistan" through all its seven diocesan units.

Another challenge compounded with twin emergencies of annual floods and eviction of families forcibly removed from informal settlements to unclog storm water drains in Karachi. Therefore, Caritas Pakistan Karachi provided food packages to the victims and vulnerable families. The highlight of this quarter included 7th Annual Youth Camp organized in a beautiful convent of Ayubia to engage youth from different parts of the country in interactive workshops and recreational activities that promote peace, intercultural dialogue and respect in diversity. This youth peace camp includes motivational sessions, catholic social teaching, youth development, leadership skills, peace building, social harmony and exposure visit.

We also express our gratitude towards our bishops who joined Caritas teams in planting trees to support our "One Million More Tree Plantation Campaign" to combat climate change. We also urge all of you to plant a tree in the name of your elders or loved ones and translate the environmental encyclical of Pope Francis into a blueprint for action. We thank our partners for supporting us in humanitarian aid during challenging times of the pandemic. Hats off to our volunteers who stood by us and continue to be our eyes and arms on the ground.

In the end, let us thank God for the gift of life and pray for those departed during pandemic.

Special COVID-19

THE PANDEMIC Pakistan recorded 1,246,538 confirmed cases of coronavirus from July 1 to Sept. 30, 2021. The third quarter included 48,163 active cases, 27,785 deaths and 1,170,590 recoveries. In early September, National Command and Operation revised its Covid-19 vaccination guidelines for citizens below the age of 18 and said that they will be administered the Pfizer vaccine.



EMERGENCY

Books, stationery and food for poor children in Karachi

Caritas Pakistan Karachi, Focolare team and the Mission Commissions of the local archdiocese handed out books, stationery and food to poor children from the St James Primary School, in Ghara, a town in Thatta district. Manzoor Masih, George Noronha, Shahzad, and Fabian Clive, with the help of other team members reached out to the poorer but deserving children for whom education represents a way up the social and economic ladder. St James pupils are largely from Christian and Hindu farming families who live in the village of Gardi Bit, Ghara, about 70 km from Karachi, along the coastal strip of Ketu Bandar. The gifts distributed on July 18 were a source of joy for the children, who can count on this aid to continue their studies in an atmosphere of joy and celebration. Inspired by Pope Francis's ideal of fraternity, Christian charities have handed out food without distinctions of faith. About 40 pupils received colouring books, stationery, rice, cold drinks and fruit juices, along with sweets.

Catechists, priests and activists promoted moments of encounters and prayer, with people from different communities sharing their experiences. In some cases, the poverty of some families and children, who are barely surviving, left a deep impression. For them, education is the means to improve their quality of life. Focolare team leader Fabian Clive stressed the beauty of helping the poor and needy, and hopes they can continue this work in the future. Mansha Noor, Caritas Karachi executive secretary, praised the movement's work in favour of the weakest groups in society. "Even these poor children can make a great contribution to the country's development and the well-being of their families, if they are given resources and opportunities," he said. He hopes that Caritas and the Focolare team can strengthen their cooperation in the future in education and help for the poor. One the beneficiaries of yesterday's event was a 10-year-old 5th grade pupil, Ramo Hero, who said that "giving and sharing" are important. "One day," he explained, "I too will share all my possessions with other poor children and help others, just as I received the help of Caritas and the Focolare Movement."

Support for evicted families in Hyderabad

Caritas Pakistan Hyderabad with the joint efforts of Catholic Diocese of Hyderabad distributed food packages and a pair of mosquito nets to 134 Evicted households. His Excellency Bishop Samson Shukardin, Rev. Fr. Babar (Parish Priest St. Immaculate Conception Church Kotri), Rev. Fr. James Caslino (Board member),

Mr. Manshad Asghar (Executive Secretary CPH) distributed food packages & a pair of mosquito nets to each family. Before distribution Mr. Mukhtar Gill (Project Coordinator) briefed that Caritas and Catholic Diocese of Hyderabad always stand with the vulnerable people wherever difficult situation happened. Further said we all need to take care of our households in the COVID-19 pandemic situation and also follow the SOP.

In the end His Excellency Bishop Samson Shukardin assured his support saying that the Parish and Caritas are always with the needy in their hard time and it's just a little help, my prayers are with you so that God may provide more help to find out appropriate solution for. Before distribution, CPH project visited the evicted families and collected the required data

Food support for flood victims in Islamabad

In August 2021, a session was held for flood relief after heavy rains in Islamabad in Fatima Church. Dry ration was distributed among victims. Rev. Fr. Sylvester and Kamran Sattar executive secretary Caritas Pakistan Islamabad Rawalpindi attended the distribution. Seventy families received the packages, and victims were from G-8/1, G-7/3-2, G-6/2 and F-7/4. Last month, two people were killed in Islamabad as several areas of the capital experienced urban flooding after a cloudburst caused heavy rainfall. Footage circulating on social media showed flood water sweeping away cars in the E-11 area of the capital.

Food & Nutrition Baskets for vulnerable families in Karachi

In response to forced Eviction Emergency, Caritas Pakistan Karachi with support of Missio Austria distributed food & nutrition packages with hygiene kits among 150 most vulnerable evicted Christian families of Godhar camp, Sadiq Nagar, Siraj Colony, Bara Maden and Gujja Nalla area of St. Philip's Parish, St. Jude's and St. Michael's Parishes of the Archdiocese of Karachi on 15th of September, 2021 at St. Jude's Parish North Nazimabad, Karachi.

These Christian families were rendered homeless by the government action of anti-encroachment operation to demolish all structures built on the banks of a large storm-water drain (Gujjar Nalla and Orangi Nalla) that runs through the length of the city of Karachi.

Distribution ceremony commences with opening pray led by Fr. Mario Rodrigues, Parish priest. Fr. Mario Rodrigues, Parish Priest of St. Jude's Parish, in his speech said that we must trust that God be with us in our miserable situation and send same one for our help like Caritas. "Whatever we received today we always praised and thanked to the God. We also prayer for our benefactors those especially Mission Austria, Caritas Pakistan for their financially support for this relief items".

He also thanked Caritas Karachi for providing food packages and Hygiene Kits to our Parish areas peoples those were affected by the anti-Encroachment operation and Covid-19 pandemic. He concluded his speech said that we are try our level best for your housing rights and demand to Sindh government to provide you the alternative plot as replacement and cost of compensation. Mr. Mansha Noor, Executive Secretary said that "Caritas mean Love and Caritas is always reaches there where no one goes to share their Love and solidarity with most vulnerable and marginalized those are suffering from any natural or manmade disasters". He asked the affected peoples to help each other in this awful situation and organized your selves and united to fights for your housing rights. He concluded his remarks said that Caritas Pakistan will not leave you alone in this miserable circumstances and it will continue its support in shape of goods, Morley and Ethically. The Chief Guest Fr. Mario Rodrigues and Mansha Noor, Executive Secretary (CPK) distributed the food packages and hygiene kits among effected families.



WASH

Malaria, Dengue and COVID-19 Awareness Raising Campaign in Karachi

Caritas Pakistan Karachi under the WASH Project is carrying on the awareness raising about Health and Hygiene and COVID-19 prevention through banner holdings. During the rainy season, there is an unusual increase in the number of mosquitoes and people are infected with fevers such as malaria and dengue. In view of this, Caritas Pakistan Karachi launched a Malaria, dengue and COVID-19 awareness campaign under Caritas WASH Project of "Wash Initiative in Remote areas of Pakistan". The objective of the campaign was to create awareness among community members about prevention and eradication of mosquitoes by holding Awareness Banners and distribute disinfection Spray Machines with Anti-Malaria and dengue Chemical among WASH Committees Members. Rev. Fr. Ashir Iftikhar, Parish Priest of St. Michael's Parish of the Archdiocese of Karachi along with Mr. Mansha Noor, Executive Secretary of Caritas Pakistan Karachi inaugurated the Malaria, Dengue and COVID-19 Awareness campaign for Health & Hygiene Promotion through Banner Holdings at St. Michael's Parish by affixing awareness raising banner on Health & Hygiene and precautions of COVID-19. Fr. Ashir Iftikhar suggested Caritas to also create awareness about the danger of eating betel (pan) and gutka through counseling, sessions and banner holdings. Mr. Mansha Noor Executive Secretary Caritas Pakistan Karachi in his remarks said that "Mosquitoes are usually found in large numbers from September onwards, leading to the spread of diseases John Rahmat (Program coordinator) and Sarfraz Anwar (Project Coordinator) took the sessions on Malaria, Dengue and COVID-19 Awareness and Prevention. They explained and suggested the following ways to enhance the protection against Malaria, dengue and COVID-19 by covering and cleaning water containers on a regular basis. "Keep your house clean and tidy avoid leaving junk inside and outside the house. Wear protective clothing like long sleeves and pants. Invest in a mosquito net so you're protected against insect bites when you sleep. Ensure that there are no holes and that it is properly sealed to get maximum protection. The use of mosquito coils may help but use with caution and keep away from the reach of children. Apply mosquito repellent all over your body. Consult a doctor first before using any kind of product on children," they said. At the end of the program Executive Secretary handed over the Disinfectant Sprayer Machines to the WASH Committees members for the prevention of Coronavirus infection and Dengue/ Malaria Mosquitos in their respective areas. Prior to handing over the disinfectant sprayers machines a demonstration of uses of sprayer was given to the participants. Banner hoisting activities were carried out in Yusuf Goth, Saifal Murri Goth and Meer Khan Goth and St. Michael's Parish.



COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (CBDRM)

DMC helps community during heavy rain in Karachi

The DMC members of Shahbaz Goth area of St. Thomas's Parish of the Archdiocese of Karachi district Malir actively engaged and continued their rescue efforts and help the community members as the heavy monsoon rains created chaos in their area. The heavy rainfall with thunderstorm lashed Karachi on September 2, 2021. The different areas of the city continued to receive moderate to heavy showers on Friday under the influence of a monsoon system in the south southeast of Karachi, said the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). The rain lashed different parts of the city on Friday, causing urban flooding in various areas of the city along with electric supply suspension.



Training on rescue and first aid in Karachi

Caritas refreshed the skills and knowledge of Disaster Management Committee members for Rescue, First Aid and use of Emergency kit during Disaster. Caritas under their CBDRM Project organized the refresh training for the DMC Members of Shahbaz Goth about Rescue, First Aid and use of Emergency Kits during any disaster to save the life of the peoples on 15th of August, 2021 at Shahbaz Goth area of St. Thomas's Parish of the Archdiocese of Karachi.



The purpose of the training was to refresh the skills and knowledge of the DMCs members and volunteers on Search, Rescue and emphasis on First Aid to effectively handle the affected people at the time of any Disaster. The DMCs members and volunteer has been enabled to reduce the impact of disaster and save life of the people and possible losses in case of heavy rain and urban flood in Karachi.

Mr. Sarfraz Anwar, project officer of CBDRM project was the facilitator of the training workshop. He trainer taught the participants how they make self-safety first and then help the injured people to provide the first aid. The facilitator imparts the skills of different first aid methods among participants.

ONE MILLION MORE TREE PLANTATION CAMPAIGN

Archbishop of Lahore joins tree plantation campaign

His Grace Archbishop Sebastian (Archbishop of Archdiocese of Lahore), Rev. Fr. Francis Gulzar (Vicar General of Archdiocese of Lahore), Fr. Mushtaq Piara (Rector Catholic Cathedral), Fr. Bernard Emmanuel (Parish Priest St. Mark Parish),

Mr. Rafiq Inayat (Project Officer-CPL) and other priests planted tree (One million more tree Plantation campaign) on the occasion of blessing of new Parish House of St. Mark Parish Gujranwala on August 15, 2021



Tree Plantation at St. Anthony Parish, Lahore

Under One Million More Tree Plantation Campaign, Caritas Pakistan Lahore handed over 100 tree saplings to St. Anthony Parish Lahore for tree plantation at graveyard of St. Anthony Parish near University of Engineering and Technology Lahore. This activity was organized to compliment for Plant for Pakistan on August 13, 2021.

Rev. Fr. Irshad Ilyas (Parish Priest), Mr. Naeem Naz (Caritas Lahore), catechists and some youth members planted some tree sapling in the graveyard. Rev. Fr. Irshad thanked Caritas Pakistan Lahore for giving them 100 tree saplings and ensured that Planted trees will be cared for growing them big trees.



Tree Plantation at Village Ranseenwal, Narowal

In contribution to the One Million More Tree Plantation Campaign, 500 trees were distributed at village Ranseenwal district Narowal. 100 plants were handed over to Saint Marie's high school Ranseenwal and 400 plants were distributed among farmers and children. These trees were raised in the Green Pakistan Nursery, which was supported by Caritas Pakistan Lahore in 2019. Some Tree Saplings were also planted with community members and they were urged to care the planted trees. Tree Plantation at Village Ranseenwal, Narowal



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CARITAS INITIATIVE FOR EDUCATION PROMOTION CIEP

Education Festival and Annual Result in Multan

Caritas Pakistan Multan organised education festival and annual results day on 16 September 2021 at Boland Hall Bishops house, Multan. One hundred twenty children of 4 Non formal education centre from Multan and Khanewal participated.

Rev. Fr. Yousaf Sohan Vicar general was the Chief Guest. Mrs. Grace Sania, Project Officer welcomed all. Mr. Samuel Clement shared about project and its aim. Rev. Fr Yousaf Sohan thanked the donors and appreciated the efforts of Mr. Samuel and his CPM team. At the end Rev. Fr. Yousaf Sohan and other distributed trophies among positions holder.

