

Meeting with the Commissionerate of Afghan Refugee (CAR)

Caritas Pakistan has conducted meeting with the Commissionerate of Afghan Refugee (CAR) and discussed the future distribution and other matters. CAR officials appreciated the Caritas Pakistan for transparency, high quality material and well-coordinated approach since the beginning of new Afghan Crisis. It was informed to Caritas Pakistan team that CAR offices in Peshawar have also initiated process of facilitation for more distributions in Peshawar & Quetta. Caritas Pakistan is now allowed to visit the Afghan Refugees Villages, and staff can visit any Refugees Villages but prior information should be shared with relevant CAR Offices due to security and administrative reasons.



EMERGENCY - EVICTION

Distributed food Hampers and Winter Clothing Among the Gujar Nala Affected People at Karachi

On December 05, 2021, the second Advent Sunday of hope, CPK distributed food hampers and warm winter clothes among the 200 families affected by Gujar Nala in collaboration with Robin Hood Army (RHA) and Allied Bank Ltd (ABL). The anti-encroachment operation conducted by Pakistan government and families were left to fend on their own in St. Philip's and St. Jude's Parishes. Rev Fr. Shahid Boota (Assistant Parish Priest of St. Philip's Parish) and Fr. Mario Rodriguez (Parish Priest of St. Jude's Parish) led the opening prayer and expressed their gratitude to RHA, ABL, and CPK. "We must trust God always, who is with us in our miserable situations and sends someone for the help" Fr. Shahid Boota Said. Mr. Sameer Baig (Head of Robin Hood Army Pakistan) thanked CPK for facilitating and coordinating during the whole process. Mr. Mansha Noor (ESCPK) said that we are celebrating International Volunteers Day today and talked about the importance of dedicating our time and efforts for voluntary services. He highly appreciated RHA and ABL in his closing remarks.



Organized Evaluation workshop with Staff and Volunteers on Eviction Emergency Response at Karachi

Caritas Pakistan Karachi organized Evaluation and Way-Forward workshop with staff, volunteers and beneficiaries on our relief & recovery eviction emergency response on 23rd of October, 2021 at caritas Karachi office. The objectives of the Evaluation & Way-Forward workshop were to reflect critically by evaluating the project's activities & outcomes and come-up with recommendations for future interventions. The workshop was commenced with prayer and participants' introductory session led by Miss. Sunila Anwar and Miss Bushra James. Mr. Amjad Gulzar (Executive Director) joined the workshop for proper Evaluation and Way-forward through Zoom-App from Lahore. He appreciated and congratulated Mr. Mansha Noor (Executive Secretary), staff and volunteers for conducting such an important workshop.



Caritas Providing food & Nutrition Baskets with Corona Safety Kits to Deserving Families in Karachi

Caritas provided food & nutrition baskets with corona safety Kits among 35 deserving and marginalized families living in different areas of sacred heart parish of the Archdiocese of Karachi on 28th October, 2021 with the support of church aid agency in Austria. The beneficiaries included all those who are disabled, sick, widows and families living on daily wages. The ceremony began with Rosary prayer. Awareness sessions on Hand Washing and Covid Prevention Measures were conducted with all beneficiaries. Rev. Fr. Gul Shahzad (Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church) with Mansha Noor (ES), Mr. Amir Robin(RCS), Sarfarz Anwar (Project Officer) and two catechists Mr. Emmanuel Bhatti and Mr. Younus Rahi were present at the distribution ceremony "Caritas mean Love and Charity, we always reach to the places where no one goes, and we share the Love and Charity with the most vulnerable and marginalized" said Mr. Mansha Noor (ESCPK).



EMERGENCY - EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

Response to Earthquake Emergency in District Harnai, Balochistan

On October 7, 2021, An earthquake of magnitude 5.9 struck parts of Balochistan early Thursday morning, killing at least 20 people, unofficial figures were 50, and injuring over 300 others, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Baluchistan. More than 750 houses completely collapsed and 2500 houses were damaged and not liveable. The estimated affected population was 55,000 as per Government officials. The earthquake was so devastating in remote villages of District Harnai, that most of the mud houses collapsed. Caritas Pakistan observed during assessment and coordination meetings with GOs and stakeholders that many poor households lost their houses completely, they were not liveable and these families were in dire need of shelter support in extreme winter. Caritas Pakistan responded to the needs of the Earthquake Affected communities through the EA21/2021 Appeal. Caritas Pakistan provided support to 140 Affected households have increased access to food, 140 Earthquake affected households received and use appropriate hygiene kits and 180 households have improved living conditions through 40 winterized tents and 140 NFIs.



Distributing Relief Material to the People Affected by Earthquake in Quetta

Disaster Relief is important to hasten the distribution of supplies and aid those in need. Given that to alleviate the sufferings encountered during earthquake in Harnai District in Quetta, it was crucial to prepare relief supplies as early as possible to be able to circulate it to the affected families. Rev. Father Samuel Adnan with local MPA Mr. Khalil George distributed Tents, Floor Mats, and Food Packages with the support of PDMA. The local volunteer of Caritas Mr. Waseem Sadiq has been a great help for quicker response to those affected by the unfortunate event.



Distribution of Emergency Kits in Hyderabad

On 8th October 2021, Caritas Pakistan Hyderabad distributed Emergency Kits that included First Aid Box, Safety Cones, LED Torch, Stretcher, Safety Jacket, Mega Phone and Face Masks, to the DMCs of village Khakho Machi & Bhoro Thakur- Hosri district Hyderabad. Mr. Mukhtar Gill (Program Coordinator) explained the importance of the given kits and gave a training on using the emergency kits in times of need. The DMCs along with village members were very pleased to receive the emergency kits and thanked Caritas organization for such great support.



COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (CBDRM)

Conducted training session on strengthening communities coping practices in Quetta

On 22, October, 2021, Caritas Pakistan Quetta team has conducted training session on strengthening communities coping practices for DMC Ranjan khan khoso, district Jagffarabad, UC, Nasirabad. Mr. Sharafat Sharif Executive Secretary Caritas Pakistan Quetta and Mr. Altaf Hussain have facilitated the training session and DMC has paid thanks to Caritas Pakistan Quetta team for their services in far flung and rural areas of the province



LIVELIHOOD & FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

Seminar on Nutritious Food and Balanced Diet at the village Bhuro Thakur

On 20th October 2021, Caritas Pakistan Hyderabad organized awareness-raising session on nutritious food and balanced diet for pregnant, lactating women (PLW) and children under smallholder adaptive farming project at the village Bhuro Thakur, Hosri Hyderabad. The session was facilitated by Mrs. Parmeela Sohail senior nursing instructor of St. Elizabeth Hospital unit # 7 Latifabad Hyderabad. The facilitator interacted with women and clarified about nutritious food & balanced diet. She explained on the importance of taking three meals on time to meet the body's requirements.



The consumption of unhealthy food items like paan, gutka, chalia and cigarette spoils the received nutritious food which results in weak and an unhealthy body. She provided awareness to Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) on; taking maximum benefits from such consumption we have in Pakistan; normalizing blood pressure during pregnancy by consuming salt and sugar water which is a kind of remedy for vomiting, dizziness and headache; the importance of adding milk, yogurt, Ghee, vegetables and fruits in the diet for the health of their babies and themselves.



They must prepare food on time for children under 10 years of age to maintain the balance and fulfil the required nutrition for proper growth.

PRA and Household Survey for SAFBIN Program

Ten PRA tools consisting of social mapping, entitlement mapping, resource mapping, transect walk, agro-ecological mapping, land rights mapping, food ecosystem mapping, seasonality map, TITO (Trade in Trade out) and bio resource flow were applied to understand the village environment, know and learn indigenous practices, recording of farmer practices related to soil and water management and exploration of agronomic and market/economic opportunities for improving farm productivity. Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA) , Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and interviews of key informants helped to understand social structures, infrastructure in the villages, community assets, access to government schemes and other entitlements, natural and man-made resources in the villages, availability of food from different ecosystems, existing farming systems, buying and selling of products on the market, climate change vulnerabilities, and upcoming or current available government schemes for farmers. The household survey form was developed (Google forms) in consultation with SAFBIN field team and was communicated to the diocesan offices. A sample size of 12 farmers (9 project farmers and 3 control farmers) will be interviewed from each village.



Organic Farming Training

Twelve (12) organic farming trainings, one in each village, were organized in 12 villages of Sahiwal, Sargodha, and Khushab districts with 485 farmers (320 males, 165 female), with the objective to promote sustainable eco-friendly agriculture farming to regain soil fertility, promote biodiversity and reduce dependency of farmers on external inputs. Benefits of organic farming and different methods like composting, mulching, using bio-fertilizers, biological pest control, integrated farming, Effective Microorganisms (EM) Technologies in organic agriculture, use of animal urine, use of green manures, crop diversification and rotation, farm design and bio fencing were communicated to the farmers through lectures and practical demonstrations



SAFBIN Launching at National Level

Caritas Pakistan National Secretariat organized Launching ceremony of SAFBIN program on 10th Dec, 2021 at Renewal Center, Youhanabad. SAFBIN Program in Pakistan is implemented in 24 villages of six districts (Sargodha, Khushab, Layyah, Sahiwal, Gujranwala and Sheikhupura) in close coordination with regional offices, community partners and government departments. The overarching goal of the program project is to contribute to smallholder farmers' capacity to adapt to climate change and promote sustainable agriculture in Punjab region (in line with SDG 1, 2, 5, 10, 12,13 and 15). A key note address by Mr. Amjad Gulzar and overview of SAFBIN program by Mr. Amir Irfan helped participants to understand efforts behind SAFBIN funding and scope of SAFBIN in Pakistan. This was followed by ribbon cutting and unveiling of SAFBIN logo; SAFBIN song; remarks of Executive Secretaries; launch of SAFBIN calendar; and an inspirational tableau performance by SAFBIN team.



National Community Development Course (NCDC) - 6th Batch

Caritas Pakistan national secretariat organized sixth batch of National Community Development course (NCDC 6th). More than Twenty participants were graduated in a fruitful journey concluding the sixth National Community Development Course NCDC of Caritas Pakistan in October at Lahore. It was held from 1st October till 30th October 2021. The course offered modules on social mobilization, rural development, leadership and conflict management, project designing, management, budgeting, COVID-19 awareness raising and mobilization, communication, report writing, climate change, community based disaster management and monitoring, evaluation and accountability. There was an exposure visit to model projects as well. This whole month was full of learnings and exploring the inner skills for a better future and contribution towards the community uplift. Several students took stage to share their life changing experience with Caritas and appreciated the community development components learned during the one-month course. Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw urged the students to learn more skills. "Move ahead in your life and always look for better opportunities. Even Christians can be good businessmen," he said. Mr. Amjad Gulzar (Executive Director Caritas Pakistan) also urged for an effective teamwork to build community and engage youth.



8th WOMEN CONFERENCE

8th Women Conference was organized on 11th November, 2021 at Renewal Center Lahore Mr. Amjad Gulzar (ED) inaugurated the conference with a welcome note and shared the purpose of this Conference. "We want to promote women leadership in our organization and women to be given opportunities for their empowerment" he said. Welcome song was presented by the students of Annaniah's Rehabilitation Center. Women representatives from each diocese shared on the role of women in eviction, agriculture, emergency, family, economic growth, business and education.

