

CARITAS INITIATIVE FOR EDUCATION PROMOTION (CIEP)

Children Education Program launched for school dropouts

Caritas Pakistan launched "Caritas Initiative for Education Promotion" (CIEP) at the National Secretariat on Feb 14. Staff members and CIEP team gathered to cut the ribbon and initiate the project in four dioceses including Hyderabad, Faisalabad, Karachi and Lahore. "The idea is to create an education system that educates and empowers hundreds of school dropouts and child laborers. The rampant illiteracy is a big issue of the country," said Mr. Amjad Gulzar (Executive Director Caritas Pakistan). 5.4 million Children are school dropouts and 24 million children have never been to school in Pakistan. Financial support to families, death of parents, failing many times, using drugs, early child marriages, lack interest and financial crisis were identified as major challenges.



TOT for CIEP Teachers and Project Staff

Caritas Pakistan National Secretariat organized two days training workshop "TOT for Education project Staff" from 14-15th March that was facilitated by Ms. Anila Gill (National program officer) & Ms. Irum Waris (psychologist). Almost 15 participants including teachers and diocesan field officers attended this training. "CIEP will serve as a guiding light for the marginalized children so they could have a respectful future. I am grateful that we have active teachers in our team, you just need to adopt efficient way of transferring knowledge and technical skills in class environment and this training will surely be proved beneficial to implement this project effectively" said Mr. Amjad Gulzar (Executive Director). Ms. Anila Gill (National Program Co-ordinator) discussed the importance of education. Different activities, presentations were conducted on relevant topics including role of teachers and ways of conveying knowledge in multi-grade criteria. Curriculum and syllabus designing, lesson planning and timetable designing was also guided to the teachers which made them apprised of planning the daily schedule of the subjects, extra-curriculum activities, religious norms and celebration of international days. The project staff was also briefed about child psychology, so the students could adjust themselves to the class environment. "This includes several important components such as self-belief of the student, encouragement and motivation, types of punishment, sitting arrangement of the students in classroom," said Ms. Irum Waris (a psychologist). The major challenge in teaching the school dropout children is to revive their interests back to studies. The teachers were directed to adopt a joyful learning session which involved making pocket boards and related material. The object was to convey information in effectual manner to build concepts in the minds of the students for lifetime.



Learning and Exchange Visit of Street Children Project in Islamabad

Caritas staff visited "School of Hope" for dropouts and working children in Rimsha Colony, Islamabad. Caritas Pakistan Islamabad/Rawalpindi CPIR has been supporting schooling of 45 children in the institute since January 2018. Counseling sessions for drug addict youngsters are also held in the afternoon. Caritas Pakistan plans to educate 400 children adopting the similar project in four dioceses including Faisalabad, Lahore, Hyderabad and Karachi. The staff from Faisalabad, Lahore and National Secretariat noted best practices of "Protecting street children by providing primary services and advocating for their rights project" and interviewed children, school management, teachers, drug addicts and psychologist on January 18, 2019. Mr. Liaqat Masih (Project Coordinator) briefed 150 participants about the project. Mr. Amjad Gulzar (Executive Director Caritas Pakistan), Mr. Kamran Sattar (Executive Secretary CPIR) and Mr. Aneel Mushtaq (Executive Secretary CPF) were among the guests of honor. Mr. Amjad urged the locals to plan ahead of time. "Hard work, education and dedication can change your circumstances. Prioritize your need for a better future. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure success of their children," he said.



LIVELIHOOD & FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

5th Women Conference 2019

More than 150 women attended the "5th Women Conference" organized by Caritas Pakistan in collaboration with Caritas Austria. The concluding event of the conference was held on March 18, 2019 at St. John's Catholic Church in Youhanabad. Caritas Pakistan National Secretariat inaugurated the program on March 16. Caritas Executives from different dioceses joined their female staff in attending several activities organized during the event



"74% of all Pakistani women have less than 6 years of education. Pakistani women constitute 49% of population, but make up only 24% of the labor force. Nearly 22.5 million children in Pakistan are out of school, the majority of them are girls," said Anila Gill National Coordinator Education program.

Ms. Anila also led the panel discussion. The speakers included Ms. Naseem Sadiq Coordinator Non Violent Communication of Jesuit Community, Dr. Hina Rana visiting faculty at Center for Clinical Psychology at Punjab University and Shaheen Yousaf, Coordinator Catholic Women Organization in Lahore Archdiocese. The staff sponsored Annanias Rehabilitation Center ARC for visually impaired girls and women kicked off the 5th Women Conference on March 18 in Catholic Church. Salma, a blind teacher, recited verses from a Braille Bible before reading a poem on dignity of women. Speakers at the conference called for empowerment of women by providing them education opportunities and skill based trainings at home as well as workplace so that they are able to grow and contribute to the social as well as national development. Mr. Amjad Gulzar Executive Director Caritas Pakistan also urged women to avoid being judgmental. "Reality based approach can help being driven by emotions. Accept and respect your partner. Chalk out a plan for this year to improve your family life and community in general," he said. "Caritas Pakistan understands the concept of human rights in development of people. Even an uneducated mother can play a crucial role in good upbringing of her children." The conference concluded with a candlelight vigil to show solidarity with New Zealand shooting victims.

Advocacy and Land Rights Training

A training for capacity building of SAFBIN staff was organized on advocacy tools and laws and rights related to small farmers and tenants. Twenty three participants consisting of SAFBIN staff and diocesan units of Lahore and Faisalabad attended the training held on March 14 and 15. In his opening remarks, Mr. Amjad Gulzar, Executive Director of Caritas Pakistan spoke of the need to understand importance of advocacy and tenure security. "This training will help you to capacitate yourself and refine your understanding about advocacy tools, land laws and land rights", he said. Majority of the participants in tended to learn about land rights, methods of advocacy and revenue officials/offices linked with the farmers. Mr. Danish Masih Gill and Mr. Rizwan Paul gave a session on land tenure and tenure security. Mr. Amjad Gulzar, Executive Director of Caritas Pakistan thanked all the participants and facilitators for joining this training and giving their valuable input. "This was a very basic training to orient SAFBIN staff about different terms, explain different definitions and land laws. The SAFBIN staff was also advised to keep in touch with district/village level revenue officers particularly Patwari and Tehsildar to learn about local terms and existing agriculture land laws



Monitoring visit to SAFBIN Program

One hundred forty small farmers from different villages received seed for fodder and vegetable during a monitoring visit by Caritas officials in Sargodha and Khushab districts. Mr. Amir Irfan, National Coordinator/Program Manager-SAFBIN visited target villages of SAFBIN on 21-22 January, 2019. The purpose of this visit was to monitor the process of SAFBIN implementation; meet with farmer beneficiaries; and give guideline to SAFBIN teams for better implementation. The Program Manager accompanied by Mr. Kamran Sattar, Diocesan Executive Secretary CPIR also took part in the fodder and seed distributions. Mr. Kamran Sattar stressed farmers to maintain linkages with agriculture and livestock departments for benefiting from their schemes. Mr. Amir Irfan advised farmers to promote nutrition gardens in their homesteads to improve nutritional security. The government agriculture and livestock officers also participated and gave valuable input to farmers. Detailed meetings were also held with SAFBIN districts teams and were oriented about composting units; nutrition gardens; resilience building among farmers; formation of district forums; engaging resource farmers and school children; maintaining proper record of each and every activity; and participation of women.



Caritas calling

Together We Proceed...

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Note by:
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Executive Director

Dear Readers,

We're wishing everyone a Happy New Year. Thanks for reading our newsletter in 2018! We have a full line-up of new and important stories in these past three months. Taking a fresh start for the New Year, we rolled out a new program to educate and empower the school dropouts and child laborers in four dioceses. "Caritas Initiative for Education Promotion" (CIEP), launched this February, will help working children from poor families in getting basic education through especially designed multi-grade system and joyful learning.

To spread awareness on women issues, Caritas Pakistan organized "5th Women Conference" for more than 150 women. A female panel with background in Non Violent Communication, Clinical Psychology and women rights spoke about gender equality, non-violent communication, and concerns common among Pakistani women.

A candle vigil was also demonstrated to show solidarity with the victims of New Zealand. Caritas Pakistan staff members from all diocese were especially trained on volunteer management for recruiting more people, especially females, interested in supporting the charity. In a way we are all volunteers.

Caritas services for small and poor farmers continued by introducing apiculture (beekeeping) in the Districts of Sargodha and Khushab where 50 farmers received five honeybee boxes this March under SAFBIN program. Other activities include training on advocacy and land rights for SAFBIN staff, designing of IFS models and meetings of district forums.

Have a look. You can find it all here at Caritas Calling.



DROUGHT EMERGENCY

DROUGHT EMERGENCY: LIVESTOCK VACCINATION, AWARENESS CAMP IN KARACHI

Two years of no rain have left the farmers in the hilly areas of Gadap Town in Karachi with bone-dry fields. The region remains one of the most neglected areas by the provincial and city governments. The arid area has no electricity, gas, mobile phone coverage or no hospital. Gadap does not have a government dispensary to provide medical facilities to the poor locals.

The Sindh government had already notified large parts of six districts, including Tharparkar, as 'calamity-affected areas' due to low rainfall in the outgoing monsoon season. The other districts of Sindh province include Umerkot, Thatta, Dadu, Sanghar and Kambar Shahdadkot.

Caritas Pakistan Karachi CPK team vaccinated 1264 goats, sheep and cows this February under EA28/2018 Pakistan Drought Response Emergency Project.

The livestock vaccination camps were held on February 14 and 16 at Ahsan Raza Goth and Mehar Jabal Goth of Karachi. 1010 cattle were also treated of Ambystoma Tigrinum Virus (ATV) and Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) in different villages of Gadap Town alone. Awareness sessions on best practices for livestock management were also held.

The camps aimed at helping the drought affected small farmers in hilly regions. "The better production of milk and meat will improve the nutrition of poor women and children. The veterinary care provided at your door step will help you in protecting the livestock from different diseases," said Mr. Amir Robin Coordinator, Drought and Response program while facilitating the session.

Mr. Barkat Ali, a veterinary doctor from Hyderabad, also shared the vaccination schedule for livestock with participants. Mr. Mansha Noor, Executive Secretary CPK urged them to follow the experts' advice for increased livestock production.

Distribution of Dry Fodder

Caritas Pakistan Karachi distributed dry fodder to 120 vulnerable families. An awareness session on feed & fodder among beneficiaries with distribution of dry fodder at Ahsan Raza Goth and Mehar Jabal Goth of Gadap town from February 17 - 19.

The objective of the session was to create awareness among the small farmers about the preservation of feed & fodder for their livestock. Mr. Amir Robin Coordinator, Drought & Response facilitator of the session explained the uses of the dry fodder items and methods to preserve. "Weakness among animals is a major problem farmers faced during the drought. The main reason is nutritional deficiency because drought has dried up vegetation and plants," he said.

The distribution process was carried on systematically; at the site monitoring forms were filled out and interviews of the beneficiaries were conducted by the emergency team. Beneficiaries received tokens to collect dry fodder items. Each farmer received 50 kg wheat husk (Choker), 50 kg Boo/Torri and 32 kg khaly Dana per family were provided.



Villagers reeling from drought in Nagarparkar

Shortage of water and lack of food were among the major challenges shared by drought hit villagers of Nagarparkar, said Caritas Pakistan Hyderabad CPH officials. Operational development and management mechanism at community level for installation of solar submersible pump were planed following initial meetings at Kolhi Veri Rughani Paro and Hadani to Wandio UC Haroh Taluka.

The affected community will be mobilized for effective participation and promotion of kitchen gardening at household level to fulfill the food requirement. Mrs. Yasmine Joseph Executive Director Society for relief Development was also briefed regarding project progress during 15-16 February meeting with CPH officials. "Targeted communities have improved their resilience against drought", she said.

CPH Project Coordinator shared the progress and contribution of CPH in improving livestock health in a coordination meeting with A/C Nagarparkar, DMS Taluka Health Department Nagarparkar and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Taluka Nagarparkar. Meetings were also held with Deputy Commissioner Mithi, Deputy Director Social Welfare Mithi along with civil society organizations on transforming bio-saline agriculture in Tharparkar, CPH will participate in the event being organized by the district authority.

Final Evaluation

CPH conducted project final evaluation in January 2019. The objective of the meeting was to appraise the project in terms of effectiveness, relevancy, project impact and participation of the stakeholders. The evaluation team visited project field areas and collected the relevant data, conducted meeting with different government departments including Social welfare, Livestock Department and Agriculture department. The team recommended the replication of the same project in other areas of the Tharparkar as well.

Tree Plantation campaign continues in first quarter

In order to promote "One million Tree Plantation Campaign," Caritas Pakistan Karachi planted 410 trees from January to March 2019 in NCIT (National Catholic Institute of Theology), Ahsan Raza Goth, Holy Family Hospital, St. Michael Parish and Ilyas Goth. 100 fruit saplings were planted on Feb 9 to mark Plant For Pakistan Day.

Priests and local leaders highlighted the importance of tree plantation on these events. According to Mr. Mansha Noor Executive Secretary CPK, 40000 saplings and 15000 mangroves will be planted in April-May 2019 in the Arabian Sea.

Celebration of International Day of Forests

Students of St. John's High School in Narowal celebrated International Day of Forests with Caritas Pakistan Lahore CPL by planting 50 trees.

Mr. Javed Masih (Diocesan Field Officer – CPL) highlighted the theme "Forest and Education" and motivated the students to plant more trees and water them regularly. Importance of trees for human beings and for the planet was also discussed.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Interfaith Initiative for disables in Karachi

15 wheelchairs were distributed among the physically handicaps of different goths (districts)of Karachi on 12th of January, 2019 at Layri Sector 51/A Tisar Town. Caritas Pakistan Karachi facilitated the donation contributed by Ahsas-e-Insaniat (care for humanity) NGO. Mr. Nisar Ashrafi (Founder of Ahsas-e-Insaniat) chief guest encouraged the disable beneficiaries to contact Caritas team for future support. "Disables also deserve to be respected, to lead a decent life with equal opportunities of education, skill training and rehabilitation services and to participate in educational, social, economic, cultural spheres without any discrimination," he said. The objective of the distribution ceremony was to facilitate the disables to fight with their problems with great will and courage. Mr. Mansha Noor Executive Secretary CPK thanked Ahsas-e-Insaniat Group for the assistance to disable persons while stating the objective. Fr. Nazir John (OFM Capuchin) in charge of Prison Ministry and Pastoral care of the sick in Karachi Archdiocese assured support to serve disables in emergencies.



European-Asian Partnership for Building Capacities in Humanitarian Action (PEACH) This project is funded by EU

Caritas' advanced Training on Volunteer Management, "We are all Volunteers"

Caritas Pakistan staff members from all diocese got training from March 11 to 13 on volunteer management for recruiting more people interested in supporting the charity. "In a way we are all volunteers – this is a sacred work. We need to build strong relations with people who want to serve the humanity. The next challenge is provide them a learning environment," said Mr. Amjad Gulzar Executive Director. 26 participants were briefed on reasons behind volunteering, scenarios for their involvement, building internal support for volunteer management process, assessing VM system in diocesan units, sustainability of volunteer programs and advanced methodologies. Communication gap, lack of appreciation or support mechanism were highlighted as major challenges in retaining volunteers. Certificates were later distributed among them. About 500 volunteers have been registered at CP since 2012. One thousand volunteers will be segregated and engaged by the end of 2019.



Planning and Coordination Meeting

Bishop Benny Travas Chairman Caritas Pakistan chaired the "Planning and Coordination Meeting" held February 04-05, 2019 at National Secretariat.Mr. Amjad Gulzar Executive Director also joined Dioncesan Executive Secretaries to discuss the annual plans for the year 2019, schedule of Important events, strategies for achieving the targets of current year, reporting, capacity building and networking, lessons learned of the projects and One Million Tree Plantation Campaign that started in December 2016. The Executive Secretaries shared the status of diocesan projects in their respective diocesan units and experience of Lenten Campaign last year.



HEALTH & WASH

The fight for Polio

Caritas Pakistan Hyderabad (CPH) CPF in collaboration with Dettol, the project team Nagarparkar participated in antiseptic brand, held a session on March four day Polio vaccination campaign 18 at Holy Rosary School, Faisalabad. 50 organized by District Govt. and Health students attended session on advantages department in January 2019. The training of hand wash, waterborne diseases and motivated the participants to mobilize the consequences of open defecation. They were briefed about sufficient water, community members for the vaccination Interactive audio video aid introduced spaces for washing and bathing purposes and communicable & infectious diseases of minors to secure them from the behavioral change in the student. At the end gifts were distributed among students.



Hygiene awareness session in school

Panel Discussion with Women

Under WASH promotion, CPF held a panel discussion with women regarding their health issues. The session focused on minimizing health issues of the females affected by irregular menstrual issues. They were briefed about sufficient water, community members for the vaccination Interactive audio video aid introduced spaces for washing and bathing purposes and communicable & infectious diseases of minors to secure them from the behavioral change in the student. At the end gifts were distributed among students.

Celebrations of World Water Day 2019

Caritas Pakistan Faisalabad CPF celebrated World Water Day on 22nd March 2019 with 30 children gathered at village Lyallpur Jaranwala to promote water conservation. A session on safe drinking water was also conducted by CPF at St. Paul High School, Jhang Road on March 21. Over 37 participants of safe drinking water club were also briefed about the source of drinking water and the techniques to eliminate impurities. Caritas Pakistan Karachi also observed World water day at St. Bernadette School, Bhense Colony with 200 students and teachers. CPK staff also shared the background of the international day and situation of water crises in the country. The six steps technique of hand washing was also shared with the participants. A poster competition on World Water Day was later held among the students.



Bee farming introduced to poor farmers

Caritas Pakistan introduced bee farming for small holder farmers to help them to overcome their losses amid climate change and manipulation of prices by middlemen. 20 farmers, including two women, in Khushab and Sargodha districts received honey boxes on March 21, 2019 as part of Caritas' Smallholder Adaptive Farming and Biodiversity Network (SAFBN) program. Caritas Pakistan Islamabad-Rawalpindi CPIR staff also organized apiculture (bee keeping) trainings on the farms prior to distribution of wooden honeybee boxes. The equipment included protective gloves, head protection hats, bee boxes, hive frames, honey strainers and honey extractors. "The initiative is meant to support farmers with small lands and introduce them to integrate farming. The boxes will be kept in farms in groups to provide more options to bees in collecting nectar from surrounding gardens," said Mr. Mehnaz District Program Officer CPIR. "Most of our beneficiaries are people enrolled in small holder communities. Priority was given to widows whose families were willing to care for honey bees."



SOCIAL HARMONY

Social harmony awareness sessions in schools

CPF organized a session on social harmony awareness at St. Paul's Girl's High School Nasrat colony Jhang road on March,21-2019. 31 participants attended the session on "little acts of kindness can bring peace of mind." The facilitator explained the role of students in building a better society and doing acts of kindness like helping each other; visiting the sick, respecting elders and friends. CPL also conducted awareness session on social cohesion at St. Paul's High School Gujranwala on March 22 with an objective to build unity and friendship. Sr. Shumaila Mahnga FTL (Principal St. Paul's High School Gujranwala) appreciated the efforts of CPL for harmony and promised continued cooperation of school management.

Caritas Pakistan Karachi organized "Youth for harmony" orientation meeting with youth groups of Sector 9, Orangi Town, Ithad Town, Nawab Colony, Mari pur and other areas St. Luke's Parish. The purpose was to share the details of the project's mission with youth in different communities. CPK staff motivated the youth to share their ideas to spread reconciliation in their parish. Social harmony seminar, sports, exposures, trainings and building youth clubs were among several suggestions.

Teenagers were asked to draw symbols of and explain their concepts. Rev. Fr. Mukhtar Alam (Parish Priest ST. Luke's Parish) thanked Caritas for enlightening the youth. "They are the backbone of our nation, making it stronger and more progressive," he said.

