

Sindh Commission on the Status of Women

COVID REPORT

2019-2020





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SUMMARY

The COVID-19 outbreak was treated as a case of pneumonia with unknown etiology appeared in the Wuhan city of China, at the end of December 2019. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID 19 outbreak as sixth public health of emergency Services (SPHEC) on January 30, 2020. COVID 19 confirmed to have reached Pakistan on 26 February 2020, when two cases were recorded.

The Government of Sindh virtually led the Federation and other provinces to fight against Covid-19. The Sindh government formed a task force on corona virus, a day after Pakistan confirmed its first two cases. The Provincial Administration led by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah took timely actions to curb the spread of virus and put in action an energetic set of teams. Isolation wards were established in different parts of Sindh on immediate basis, one of its kinds was Sukkur isolation center and pilgrims from Iran arriving to Karachi were shifted to Sukkur isolation centre. The Sindh Government established four more isolation centers, based on the model of the one set up in Sukkur, across the province. Food ration was also provided to the people in need. Moreover, public awareness drive was also introduced so that people at large have the basic knowledge on how to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

The pandemic has also taken a devastating blow on the Pakistani economy. Every individual has suffered losses. The economy is shrinking, unemployment is rising and various sectors are in crisis. Millions of people were estimated to be sheltering at home. Where households were placed under the increased strains that come from security, health and financial constraints. However due to the pandemic the women and girls have suffered the most, a spike in domestic violence have been noticed. Violence against Women has always been one of the most widespread violations of human rights in Pakistan. However due to COVID 19 and continuous lockdown domestic violence have multiplied.

While the country was under complete lockdown all the closure of government offices, help lines and other facilities, men and children were staying at homes, burdened the girls and women with domestic chores even further, women and girls working in Parlors, restaurants, factories and different companies were laid off, caring for elderly and ill family members, as well as for siblings who are out of school. Furthermore, economic stress has put women and girls at a greater risk of exploitation and gender-based violence.

The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women during this pandemic has worked in its full capacity to help the women and girls in distress, even with the scarcity of resources while all the offices were closed, the Chairpersons setup an office at her residence to provide relief to the effectees on immediate basis. Helpline was inactive during this time and in this regard a request was made to the CM Sindh for establishing a special helpline for women and a helpline was established on emergency basis under Local Government Department, Government of Sindh (1093 toll free service was started). Meanwhile, the complaints were received by SCSW via social media, a whatsapp group of commission members was also active during this time and people from civil society and different organizations who had direct access to the Chairperson shared their grievances/complaints with her. The Commission received several complaints regarding domestic violence, laying off staff, ration and Women related health issues which were not addressed due to the load of work and pandemic situation.

This report will give you a detail insight about the work that has been done during the peak of COVID-19, including the monitoring visits, ration distribution, hygiene kits distribution and domestic violence cases.

EHSAAS PROGRAM MONITORING VISIT

Anjuman e Islamia, Girls & Boys Secondary and Primary School, Liaqatabad, District Central Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Government of Sindh.

Sindh Status of Commission on Status of Women has been working for needy and deserving people especially women and works for women empowerment. Chairperson for the Commission, Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, visited Ehsaas Program Centre at Anjuman e Islamia, Girls & Boys Secondary and Primary School, Liaqatabad, District Central Karachi along with her member Darakshan Sualeh for monitoring. She enquired the staff facilitating Ehsaas Program and the women present there for collection of money.

Ms. Shahida Awan a social worker & volunteer is a part of this program since COVID-19 crises started. She helped around 600 women for registering in Ehsaas Emergency Cash, Ration & Ehsaas Labor programs are Still assisting them by registering their required information on the desired web-portal so that the needy, poor, jobless, and deserving families get the benefits through this platform.

There are many areas of Karachi especially slum areas, where people do not have smart phones and even if they do, they do not have the access to internet and Ehsaas application to get registered. Sindh Commission on Status of Women collected and provided the data of Women of those slum areas; where people are not able to get registered in the program as they do not have access to Smartphones and Internet. Ms. Shahida Awan has volunteered to register their required information to Ehsaas Program's web portals.



MONITORING VISIT OF KHAIR MUHAMMAD GOTH, KHUDA KI BASTI

Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Nuzhat Shirin along with her member Darakshan Sualeh went for monitoring visit of Khair Muhammad Goth, Khuda Ki Basti to inquire about the problems faced by women during this pandemic.

Ration was also distributed on the request of the residents of the Goth with the help of Saylani Welfare Trust.





Hygiene Kits Distribution Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Government of Sindh

Distribution list of COVID-19 Hygiene kits

Total kits = 500

For Women Police		Shelter Homes	
Name of institutions	Number of Kits	Name of shelter home	Number of Kits
Central Prison for Women & Correctional Facility, Karachi	200	Pannah Shelter Home, Karachi	45
Women's Police Station, South Zone Karachi	45	Dar ul Aman, Hyderabad	51
Women Police Station Liaquatabad, Karachi	34	Dar ul Aman, Sukkur	52
Women and Child Protection Cell, Malir	15	Dar ul Aman, Larkana	33
Women Police Station, Firozabad, Karachi	25		
Total	319		181

Description of Items in the Hygiene Kits

S.no	Item Description	Quantity
1	Hand Sanitizer 100 ml (+60%Alcohol based, approved from Government, with certification)	1
2	Face Masks (pack of 30 masks in each kit)	30 pack
3	Soap for hands and face (lifebuoy and Dettol)	4
4	Lifebuoy Shampoo -Medium size	1
5	Sanitary Pads (Always Maxi thick pack of 8)	1
6	Towel -Cotton, Medium	1
7	Soap for washing clothes and other personal stuff	2bar
8	Tooth Brush -Medium – Colgate	1
9	Toothpaste -75gm Colgate	1
10	Parachute Bag for Kit with Oxfam Logo	1



Hygiene Kits Distribution Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Government of Sindh

COVID-19 hygiene kits were distributed in Sindh amongst the women police and shelter homes for their inmates and staff for protection from corona virus. These kits were provided by the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women with the support of OXFAM Pakistan, the kits were distributed in all the shelter homes, women prison, women police stations along with the women protection cells in Sindh. These kits were distributed in order to prevent gender-based violence and the spread of COVID-19.

Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, Government of Sindh observed an alarming increase in GBV cases during this COVID-19 pandemic. Prisons across the country have been experiencing outbreaks of corona virus cases, women and children are found to be more vulnerable to contracting the illness. Due to this, in order to protect our women front line workers which, include our women police officers and shelter home administration staff, as well as women survivors of violence, The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women with the support of Oxfam Pakistan was able to arrange 500 COVID-19 Safety Kits for the women inmates and staff of all the Women prisons and shelter homes in Sindh.

We are grateful to Oxfam Pakistan for fulfilling our request to provide us with 364 kits for the first round for the women police stations, prisons and protection cell in Karachi and 136 kits to shelter homes in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Larkana. In the second rounds additional hygiene kits were dispatched and distributed to the remaining Women Prisons in Sukkur, Larkana and Hyderabad, the WPC Hyderabad and Sukkur, the Women Police Station in Matiari and the District Safe House in Dadu.

Hygiene kits for the women police and women prisoners were distributed in the presence of the additional IG police, Gulham Nabi Memom, where the DIG's from all three zones of Karachi and DIG Women Prison along with their respective women police station SHO's were present.

The Sindh Commission on the Status of women hopes that providing these COVID-19 hygiene kits helped in reducing the spread of the pandemic as well as help shelter homes to be able provide appropriate and timely assistance to the survivors of domestic violence. In Pannah Shelter Home kits were provided to the administration for their residents.

During this emergency situation the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women recommended the need to urgently develop concrete gender specific policies in the context of COVID-19 for the reduction of gender-based violence, improvement in health and economic empowerment for the women of Sindh. In this regard, the Commission plans on holding consultations with civil society organizations, experts and stakeholders in order to develop appropriate recommendations for the Government of Sindh, to be able to address the specific needs of women during emergency situations. There is currently no policy in place addressing the specific needs of women during this pandemic.

Furthermore, The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women recommended that all those institutions facilitating women and girls should be included in essential services and operate with minimal staff. The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women stands with the Government of Sindh in their efforts to combat the spread of corona virus in the province.



COVID-19 hygiene kit distribution ceremony held at the Larkana Dar ul Aman on the 1st of June 2020.



On the 1st of June a distribution ceremony was held at the Karachi Police Office where COVID-19 hygiene kits for the women police and women prisoners were distributed by the Chairperson SCSW Ms. Nuzhat Shirin

Report of Monitoring Visit of SCSW Delegation Woman murder case at Wada Chachar Village, district Jamshoro. Meeting with Ms. Wazeera Family and visit of the police station. Report by Sindh commission on the status of women Government of Sindh, 5th July 2020

Background

اسلڑکی کا ناموزیر انچھچہر ہے جسکو آجما مشور وکے قریب گاونو ڈاچھچہر مین پتھر مار مار کر سنگسار کر دیا گیا اسلڑکی کے چہرے اور جسم کی تمام ہڈیاں توڑی ہوئی تھیں انہیں انہیں در دیسے اسکو قتل کیا گیا

کہا ہے ریاست ؟

دیہی علاقوں کو عورتوں کے لئے مقتل گاہ بنادیا گیا ہے

کیتھ کیٹیٹھیا ناسطرح نامہاد غیر تیر قتل ہو تیر بینگی ؟ یہوزیر اعلیٰ سندھ کا آبائی ضلع ہے قاتلا بھی تکرگرتار نہیں ہوئے

بلاول بھٹو زرداری ،

سپریم کورٹ اور سندھ ہائی کورٹ کو اسدر ندگی کا نوٹس لینا چاہئے انسان حقوق کی تنظیموں کو اسدر ندگی کے خلاف آواز اٹھانی چاہئے

The news was published on local channels, social media and in the newspapers. The Chairperson SCSW received a complaint regarding this case on the 4th July 2020 through WhatsApp. The Chairperson forwarded this complaint to IGP Sindh, the same day and inquired about the actions taken by the police and asked for a report of the case.

On same day Mr Naeem Shaikh DIG Hyderabad replied to the Chairperson SCSW complaint to IGP Sindh:



“Sir, on 28th June 2020 at about 02:00 AM, SHO Chachar got information that dead body of a young woman is found on the flank of Indus Highway near Sann. SHO Chachar reached the spot and after examination of the dead body and post mortem report, he suspected that the lady (later on identified as Wazeeran Chachar) has been killed by torture and her dead body is placed at the roadside to give an impression that her death is caused by road accident. SHO Chachar further probed into the matter and after enquiry he registered the FIR against Ali Bux Chachar the husband of the deceased lady on the complaint of her father. Presently the accused Ali Bux is in police custody and a JIT under the Chairmanship of in charge Admin Insp. Farooq Lakhair has been constituted to unearth the facts of the case. SSP Jamshoro is personally supervising the investigation of the case please” – Nadeem Shaikh, DIG Hyderabad.

SSP Jamshoro Mr Amjad’s reply to our complaint

“I would suggest that it would be better to discourage such non-sense reporting and allow the police to do its job professionally. Everyone is putting his own theory without having any slightest proof or evidence. I heard someone was talking of stone her to death by her relatives, others are talking about gang rape by her husband and brother (which is even not thinkable). I watched today her father was crying for justice in some channel who was initially not even ready to register the FIR and terming this as road accident. Please give the police the time to dig out the truth with the help of digital forensics and medical reports.” - SSP Jamshoro, MrAmjad.

Chairperson Ms Nuzhat Shirin discussed the case with SCSW members, and it was decided that a delegation would go for monitoring visit and show the solidarity with mother.

A delegation of Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, Government of Sindh, headed by Chairperson, Nuzhat Shirin along with SCSW Executive Committee member, Ms Raheema Panhwer and member of the SCSW Media Committee, Mr Mahesh Kumar visited Wada Chachar Village near Sann district Jamshoro on the 5th of July 2020. The delegation met with the family of deceased Wazeeran Chachar and ensured all possible support to seek justice. The delegation also met police officials and instructed them to carry out a transparent and fair investigation.

Conversation with Ms Wazeeran’s Family

The mother of Wazeeran said that they married their daughter Wazeeran Chachar at 25-year-old with her cousin (Phupho) five years ago in ‘watasata’. The groom’s father had promised that they would marry the niece of the groom once she became of age. A few months ago, Wazeeran’s family asked their in-laws to get Wazeeran’s husband’s niece engaged to Wazeeran’s brother as per their agreement. Both the niece and the boy are around 12 years of age but Wazeeran’s in-laws refused. In response, Wazeeran’s family took the matter to their community leader Wadera Mr Ilyas Chachar who called both parties and settle down the issue. Wazeeran’s in-laws did not appreciate this move and threatened Wazeeran’s family to withdraw their complaint or else they would kill Wazeeran. The family reported that before her death Wazeeran visited mother’s home and was observed to be happy.

On the night of June 28, 2020, around 2 am Wazeeran’s husband came to her family’s house and asked them to bring a charpai in order to carry her dead body home, which was lying on the roadside. Wazeeran’s family claimed to be shocked by the news as according to her husband she was at home by 12:00 am and was reportedly happy.

Her relative women said that, according to Wazeeran’s husbands’ statement, he and his wife both slept together around 1:30, he realized that she was not in bed and immediately started to search for her while searching he met the guard belonging to the Trauma Centre of the village. The guard



apparently informed the husband that he has seen a woman running towards road and that is when her husband allegedly found Wazeeran's body.

In the statement by Wazeeran's mother she stated that when her body was brought home, the family was horrified as it was evident that their daughter was brutally killed. They observed that her body parts were cut, one girl showed her body photo particularly near her lower abdomen, her arms, neck and face were totally destroyed. They suspected that her face was smashed by using a heavy stone. The ladies who performed her "Ghusal" bath reported that they had found body marks indicating that Wazeeran may have been gang-raped and brutally killed with stones or knife. Wazeeran's mother also recounted that her daughter and her husband were a happy couple. However, she believed that her son in law killed her daughter with the help of his brother and another relative and Wadera and community were trying to make her death seem like a suicide. One woman said that her feet tight with robe. The mother of the deceased girl requested that justice be carried out for her daughter.

Wazeeran's family also commented that Wazeeran although very beautiful in comparison to her husband seemed happy in her marriage. They reported that Wazeeran had suffered two miscarriages earlier, which her mother in-law was displeased about but according to Wazeeran's doctor she was two months pregnant at the time of her death.

During our questioning, Wazeeran's mother and sister in law claimed that Wazeeran's husband was good to her and even gifted her mobile set after their marriage. All the people present including her mother responded to this in one voice saying that Wazeeran only had one number which was her husband.

Wazeeran's father in his statement gave a similar account to that of his wife and added that he was working on a field on the other side of Indus river when he received news of his daughter's death. He held the view that she was clearly murdered, as his daughter would never commit suicide as she was had a happy life. He also reported that the community leader/Wadera Ilyas Chachar is supporting the accused party in declaring that his daughter's murder was a suicide. He further states that a JIT member visited them after 12:00 AM and had already conducted their investigation by meeting with Ilyas Chachar and did not consult Wazeeran's family, and because of this her father did not have any confidence in the police but wanted to get justice for his daughter.

Wazeeran's father and mother also reported that their daughter's jewelry was missing (bangles and gold earrings). Wazeeran's father and the community members were all sitting in the Otaq together during our visit and there the community members revealed that her father had sold his cow a day after her death for two lakh rupees.

Conversation with the Police

In our conversation with the police, they reported that they received information about a dead body through the motorway police. They reached the scene and took the dead body for postmortem at Abdullah Medical Centre, in Sehwan. The police then handed over the body to the family and registered an NC of the murder. It was revealed by the additional SHO, who was in charge of the case that the accused including the deceased's husband and brother in law were presented in court and received a judicial remand for five days. He further stated that FIR was registered by father on the second day against his son in law, his brother and brother in law as the killers of his daughter. He also showed us a few pictures which were taken before postmortem. According to him, the postmortem report will take a couple of days, but he believed that Wazeeran was murdered and it was not road accident/suicide.

A third suspect has also emerged who is believed to be a friend of Wazeeran's brother in law and an investigation has started on this.



SSP Jamshoro Mr. Amjad, further reported that speculative reporting should be discouraged before the police conduct its investigation and that the police should be allowed to do its job professionally. He further explained that many parties were bringing forward their own theories about the case without the slightest proof or evidence, he referenced the reports of Wazeeran being stoned to death by her relatives, and other reports about her being gang-raped by her husband and brother, which he considered ‘unthinkable’. He further commented that he had seen a video of the deceased father crying for justice on a news channel, when in reality according to the SSP the girl’s father had initially termed this as a road accident and was not ready to register an FIR. The SSP asked to give some time to the police to investigate the truth with the help of digital forensics and medical reports.

Observations

1. In the pictures shown to us by the relative women and police, it was very clear in pictures that Wazeeran was tortured and then stoned to death. She had cuts on different parts of her body including on her privates.
2. The police station lacked all the facilities required to carry out a proper investigation as there was no fan, computer, fax machine and other office equipment. The state of the police station itself, as well as the lock-up, was dilapidated and in need of serious repairs and expansion. Without proper facilities for the police, it is very likely that the police of that district would be easily influenced/intimated by the Wadera. The delegation observed that the Wadera was using his power to pressure the police to rule this case as a suicide.
3. Alarming, the Police had received no gender-specific training or otherwise in the last 19 years and were also unaware of any women-specific laws.
4. The people of the community revealed that Wazeeran’s father had sold his cow a day after the girl’s murder for two lakh rupees, it is unclear what he needed this money for.
5. It was narrated by the family that Wazeeran’s husband’s mother and his phuphi would constantly hurl abuses at Wazeeran as she had not had a child as yet.
6. Wazeeran’s gold jewellery (bangles and earrings) that she always wore were reported missing by her family.
7. Wazeeran’s mother also pointed out that Wazeeran’s phone only had her husband’s number, suggesting that she only used it to speak to her husband, why her mother felt the need to point this out should be further investigated. Additionally, when inquired about her phone, the family reported that the police were in possession of the phone however, the police stated that the girl’s phone is with her family.
8. There appeared to be no educated women or girls in the village giving us the impression that no proper education facilities for girls existed in the area.
9. Wazeeran’s mother was adamant that her daughter should get justice.

Recommendations

- A high-level inquiry should be set up and an example needs to be set with this case.
- The Commission observed that cases such as this are often politicized which results in the actual case being ignored and/or not investigated properly. The Commission will take a firm stand so that a transparent investigation is held for this case.

- To avoid women and girls from being victims of heinous acts of violence, such as that witnessed in the case of Wazeeran it is extremely important for girls to be educated, to stop child marriage and to discourage the practice of 'WataSata'.
- There is a need to run a campaign on women's rights and importance of education for the community women.
- There is a need to set up at the district-level an office of the Women Development Department with an active helpline to assist in such type of cases.
- Police at all district levels should receive mandatory gender-specific training.
- Awareness programs to be set up to inform the police on all the existing women laws.



Report on the Monitoring Visit of Ehsas Emergency Cash Program Tando Mohammad Khan. Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Government of Sindh, 29th July 2020

Background

Minister of Women Development Department, Ms. Shahla Raza was informed through the newspaper that a woman from Tando Mohammad Khan who visited the Ehsas Emergency Cash Program camp, died at the camp due to heat stroke. SCSW Chairperson Ms Nuzhat Shirin took immediate action after hearing the news and formed a three-member delegation consisting of Chairperson Nuzhat Shirin, Ms Malka Khan, member of SCSW and SCSW staff Savai Ifazil, reached Fuji Sugar Mill School Campus in Tando Mohammad Khan, by 2.30 pm on the 29th of July 2020.

This was second monitoring visit of Ehsas program during the COVID-19 pandemic situation. For first visit, the Chairperson of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women along with a member of the SCSW, Ms. Darakshan had visited Ehsas Emergency Cash Program at Riaz Girls College, Liaqatabad, Karachi on 16th of April 2020.

Visit of Ehsas Emergency Cash Program, Fuji Sugar Mill School Campus in Tando Mohammad Khan

Tando Muhammad Khan has three centers for the Ehsas Emergency Cash Program, the delegation held a surprise monitoring visit of the camp where a woman had reportedly died of a heat stroke. During the visit there more than thousands of women and 100 men present at the camp, it was observed that no appropriate facilities were available at the camp such as a drinking water facility or tents to shield the recipients of the program from the sun



and high temperatures. Upon questioning, the delegation was informed that a tent was temporarily set up before the Governor's visit and subsequently taken down. No COVID-19 SOP's were in place at the camp and the majority of the camp staff was not wearing masks.

The field supervisor upon questioning of why COVID-19 SOP's were not being followed, answered that they had attempted to make the men and women comply with the social distancing rules, and blamed the men and women for failing to comply with them. It was also claimed by the supervisor that the women who had died, passed away due to kidney failure and not due to a heat stroke.

Only two Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) officers were delegated to the whole district and were in charge of monitoring all three camps. At the camp visited by the delegation, there was no proper system for record collection, only NIC numbers and names were being recorded along with the recipients' thumb prints. No record of how much money was being distributed to each individual was being kept. The delegation members interviewed the women in the camp about their experience of the camp, where one woman reported that she was allocated two amounts, one for twelve thousand rupees and another worth nine thousand rupees, her details and finger print were taken twice. However, she was only given twelve thousand rupees. Only after she complained to the police officers stationed at the camp, was she given the additional nine thousand owed to her.

The job for registration of the women and distribution of money has been contracted out to private device holders. There were eight private device holders, paid twenty-six rupees per transaction, each capable of facilitating around fifty to sixty men and women in a day. At the time of the visit however, there were over thousand women and over a hundred men inside the camp. Many women complained that they had been waiting for three days to receive their money and no information was given to them about the procedures. It was also observed that the women at the camp were being mistreated by the device holders as the device holders were extremely rude with the women at the camp. The facility was unable to cater to such a large amount of people and the camp was in an unsanitary state. There is no checking of entrance gate and no ques were formed. No arrangement of drinking water.

Procedure of Distribution of Money:

HBL Konnect has been given the responsibility of the distribution of cash for the Ehsas Emergency Cash Program. HBL Konnect has signed an MOU with Easy Paisa franchises such as Sagar Communications which has in turn hired private device holders for the cash distribution. The device holders are paid twenty-six Rupees per transaction and distribute their own money to the eligible women and men and are later reimbursed by the bank. They provided no digital receipts and kept handwritten records of whom the money was distributed to, the amount of money given to each individual was not properly recorded. There was no system in place to monitor the activities of the private device holders, for example, if fifteen device holders were contracted for cash distribution and five were absent, the delegation inquired whether the devices of the absent device holders would be blocked, but no one present had an answer to this question. Even during the visit, it was observed that some device holders were absent. There was also no system in place for entry into the Ehsas Emergency Cash Program Camps resulting in overcrowding and disorder.

Meeting with the family of the deceased woman.

After the visit of the camp the delegation visited home of the women who died and met her family. Her son, sisters and some villagers were present and informed the delegation that the woman was a tuberculosis patient under treatment at a local hospital. They claimed that she was feeling well that day she left her home to visit the Ehsas camp. Upon her arrival at the camp, the device holders were requested to take her thumb print in the rikshaw she



arrived in, as it was very hot that day, but their request was ignored by the camp staff. They were made to wait over more than an hour in the heat before her health started deteriorating; they also reported that the women were manhandled by the police. The women eventually passed away at the camp due to heat and exhaustion after which a device holder came to take her thumb impression in order to process her cash transfer, which was not possible by then as she had already died. The funds could not be released into her son's account as he did not have an NIC. He was advised by the Chairperson to visit the local NADRA office to make his NIC but the next day he informed SCSW that he was not allowed admission into the respective office. Upon inquiry by the delegation on whether the family of the deceased received any money they replied that the police staff, some device holders and one NGO person pooled some money and gave her sister fifteen thousand rupees for the burial and other expenses.

Meeting with SSP Tando Mohammad Khan

The delegation met with SSP, Tando Mohammad Khan, Mr Abid Ali Baloch, who informed the delegation that three Ehsas program centers are set up in their district. The police also claimed that they had attempted to implement COVID-19 SOP's at the camps, but men and women were not following them. Police officers were provided to the Ehsas camp in order to control the law and order situation. The SSP communicated that the Federal Government has given the responsibility of running this program to HBL Konnect and that they have the responsibility to oversee this camp. Furthermore, they informed the delegation that upon receiving complaints of eligible individuals not receiving the full amounts, they had arrested some private device holders who were operating out of their homes and charging men and women one thousand to two thousand per transaction.

The police positively responded to the concerns of the delegation and agreed to reinforce social distancing and compliance of SOPs.

Meeting with Deputy Commissioner and the BISP Officer

The delegation then held a meeting with the Deputy Commissioner, concerning the poor administration of the camp in response to which he stated that they were not given any funds in order to set up facilities for the eligible women and men, furthermore he stated that they were not even been paid for the tents that were previously set up by them, thus they could not set up new tents without the necessary funds.

The BISP Officer present were also questioned and reported that initially they had attempted to control the crowd by requesting the incoming women to come back at a later date to avoid overcrowding. They claimed to have also informed the women and men that money allocated under the Ehsas Emergency Program stays in the account of each individual for a period of three months, thus there is no need to rush but no one listened to them. According to them, the women and men who were told to come back at a later date, blocked the road and called the media in order to defame the officers and the program. The officer stated that only two BISP officers were in charge of the three centers in the district but assured the delegation that they were trying their best to accommodate everyone.

Observations

Every responsible institution member had their own set of grievances. The police officials stated that HBL Konnect is in charge of the running of this program and HBL Konnect and BISP have signed MOUs with Easy Paisa franchises such as Sagar Communication that further contracts private device holders to carry out the job using their own personal finances. It was also communicated to the delegation that several device holders were absent from their duty stations and no repercussions were in place for the device



holders who do not carry out their duties, such as blocking of their devices. The delegation was also informed by the police that there were instances of some device holders registering men and women at their homes and charging a fee of two thousand rupees per individual.

BISP officers claimed that they were trying to accommodate everyone to the best of their ability, however, during the monitoring visit only one officer was available at the camp, who arrived after the arrival of the delegation from SCSW. There was neither proper system of entry into the camp nor any facilities. The treatment of the women by the device holders was also very poor and disrespectful.

Women who visited the camps did not come alone, most came with their family members. The men and women receiving these cash transfers through the Ehsas program are daily wage earners, thus waiting at the camps for long hours and visiting the camp several days in a row in order to receive their money meant that they were unable to earn anything for the time/days spent visiting the camps.

Suggestions

The Ehsas Emergency Cash Program is a great initiative to relieve the extreme hardships faced by the underprivileged due to the pandemic, however, for effective running of the program please find our recommendations below.

- The respect and dignity of women should be the top most priority and women should be treated without discrimination neither between illiterate or literate woman nor between rural and urban women.
- COVID-19 SOP's should be strictly enforced and masks, sanitizers should be provided at the camps.
- Funds should be allocated to provide the camps proper facilitation such as tents, water drinking facility etc.
- Women councilors should be involved to facilitate the women and help create order.
- An appropriate system of entry into the camp should be set up and enforced, only the men and women that can be accommodated by the camp should be allowed entry in order to minimize overcrowding.
- Separate lines should be made for elderly women and women with children in order to avoid over exposure to the heat.
- A monitoring system should be set in place for the device holders, where their activities are carefully monitored and the device holders that do not come to the camps, their devices should be blocked immediately.
- The camp administration should have a list of all eligible women and men.
- Cash distribution can involve more than one bank (HBL, NBP etc.) in this program, where a special counter can be dedicated in partner banks to distribute the cash to those eligible, a system similar to that of cash cheques, which can be cashed at any branch in order to provide ease to the eligible men and women.
- Kindly stop giving contracts to private device holders for cash distribution and discontinue the use of manual handwritten registers for record-keeping. A printed receipt system should be introduced which clearly state the date, the amount of money given and to whom it was given.
- The funds of the deceased woman should be released to her son.





Noor Afshan Domestic Violence Case Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Government of Sindh, 11th August 2020

Background

A complaint in the case of Noor Afshan on domestic violence was received by Sindh Commission on the Status of Women on Aug, 11 2020 from the producer of Radio Pakistan Sidra Jafri and the following complain in this matter was also received by Abdul Hai member Human Rights Commission of Pakistan on Aug, 11 2020, similarly it was also received through Sindh Human Rights Commission on Aug, 12 2020 respectively.

Domestic violence against Noor Afshan

On receiving the following complaint by various means. The Chairperson SCSW promptly responded to the complaint by informing in the police whatsapp group (Sindh Police and CSO group) on Aug,11 2020 and later on to the police station Shahra-e-Faisal on Aug, 13 2020 and the action was taken accordingly as per law.

The victim Noor Afshan during a conversation with the Chairperson stated that ; I have been held up in a house in Naval Housing Scheme Karsaz, Karachi and subjected to an extreme of physical as well as verbal abuse in my ex-husband's house, furthermore she said that Mr. Muhammad Amir Khan confiscated her mobile phone and open her social media accounts without her consent and misused it by sending threats to people, defamed me and sent abusive messages and did my character assassination, the other house members misbehaved with me and I was badly beaten in front of the servants and no one helped me out including my son, they did not just stop here my ex-husband brother also threatened me of dire consequences.

Similarly, a written complaint was also received in this matter from the office of Sindh Human Rights Commission where she gave her contact details to reach out on immediate basis. As the case was related to Domestic Violence, it was referred to SCSW for necessary legal actions.

The Sindh Commission immediately contacted Ms. Noor Afshan to enquire about her on the given contact number in the complaint and on hearing about her situation went to her place to rescue her, the very next day for the safety and security of Ms. Noor the chairperson accompanied her to Shahrah-e-faisal police station to launch a complaint, where Ms. Noor Afshan gave her statement.

The Chairperson and the lawyer were continuously in contact with Ms. Noor Afshan until her issue was resolved.

Report of Monitoring Visit of SCSW Acid Attack Case of Samina from Manwabaad, Nawabshah, Sindh Meeting with Samina and her sisters in Karachi 13th August 2020

Background:

Chairperson Ms. Nuzhat Shirin received reports concerning the case on social media and was then contacted by the Acid Survivors Foundation who shared the contact details of Samina's family. After a conversation with Samina's family, Chairperson Nuzhat Shirin, along with SCSW staff members visited Samina's sisters' home near Steel Town, Shah Town, phase 1.



Conversation with Ms Bismillah, sister of the survivor:

It was difficult for Samina to speak because of her burns, thus her sister Bismillah gave an account of Samina's case. Samina, is a twenty-two-year-old mother of three girls who was attacked by her mother in law, Rukhsana, with the support of Samina's husband Shehzad and father in law on the 19th of July 2020. Samina is a primary educated orphan who was married at the age of 12. On the night of the incident, Samina was unaware that acid was thrown on her and shortly after experiencing burning on her skin she realized that she had been burnt. Bismillah reported that after Samina informed her family that she was burnt, her mother in law threw petrol on her and claimed that Samina had tried to burn herself. According to Bismillah, the mother in law wanted the neighbors to think that Samina had attempted to light herself on fire. Samina was then locked up in a room all night before Samina's family rescued her. Bismillah stated that her neck, chest, knees and ears were all burnt. It was also reported that Samina has been a victim of domestic violence before this incident and was rarely allowed to speak with her family.

Additionally, Bismillah informed the Chairperson that the Civil Hospital, Nawabshah did not have facilities for acid burn survivors and had referred the family to the Government Hospital in Hyderabad and from there they brought her to Karachi. Furthermore, it was reported that Samina's family had attempted to admit her in the Civil Hospital, Karachi, as it is very expensive for them to go to the hospital to change Samina's bandages every day. They were reportedly spending three thousand rupees for travel on every visit to the hospital. The Burns Ward at the Civil Hospital, Karachi did not admit Samina due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that Samina is heart patient. Bismillah also reported that ASF had provided no help to the family so far expect for referring their case to the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women.

The case was registered in the Momen Thana Nawabshah, with SHO Mariam, and the perpetrators were arrested on the 27th of July, however, a proper FIR was registered on the 12th of August. Samina was called to give a statement at the Momen Thana, Nawabshah on the 14th of August and the family requested the Chairperson to ask the police to take her statement through video call as they were unable to travel to Nawabshah due to Samina's weak condition.

The Chairperson responded that she would request the police to take the girls statement in Karachi and transfer the case to Karachi, as well as ask the Civil Hospital Karachi to admit Samina. The Chairperson further inquired about the earning of Bismillah's household which was reported to be around seventeen thousand Rupees.

Samina's statement: Recorded a video message

Samina stated that on the night of the incident she came out of the bathroom and felt as if something was thrown on her, her skin started to burn, and she went back into the bathroom to wash herself. She reported that while she was washing her skin her mother in law inquired as to who taking a shower to which Samina responded that she was burnt. After this, her mother in law threw petrol on Samina and went outside and told everyone in the family that Samina had tried to burn herself. Next, they locked Samina in a room and created a scene outside the house in order to inform the neighbors that Samina had burnt herself. Samina reported that her sister came after two days and let her out of the room she was locked in and took Samina in an ambulance and went to the government hospital in Nawabshah. There Samina was examined by the doctors and then referred to go to Hyderabad. Samina added that her husband did not even come to see her once. She pleaded that such an instance should not happen to any women or girl and requested for help.

Observations:

Samina belonged to a low-income family and her sister's house in Shah Town, where Samina was currently living had no roof in the house except in the one-room shared by the whole family.

Recommendation:

- Samina's case should be transferred to Karachi, as she is unfit to travel and is currently living with her sister in Karachi.
- The Acid survivor bill amended by the SCSW Law Committee should be passed in the cabinet immediately and presented in the assembly for approval in order to protect the women of Sindh.



Arooj Noman Domestic Violence Case Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Government of Sindh, 18th August 2020

Background

A complaint in the case of Arooj Noman on domestic violence was received by Sindh Commission on the Status of Women on Aug, 18th2020. The complaint was received via WhatsApp to the chairperson directly.

Domestic violence against Arooj Noman

On receiving the complaint, the Chairperson immediately responded to her complaint and contacted Arooj for the redressal of her grievances. Ms. Arooj told the Chairperson that, she has been continuously abused by her in laws and her husband and she has been thrown out of her husband's house by her mother in law, due to the mistreatment Ms. Arooj wanted to part ways from her husband. The Chairperson contacted Noman (H/O Arooj) and enquired about the whole situation and suggested both (Husband and Wife) of them to live in separate houses for one week and after that visit the office of the Chairperson.

The issue was resolved through mediation by the chairperson and both the parties with their freewill decided to resolve this matter and apologized each other and an affidavit was also signed in this matter that they will not discuss their personal matters with their other family members.

This case was not referred to anyone as it was resolved through mediation between the parties.



Maria Zeb Harassment at workplace Case Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Government of Sindh, 19th August 2020

Background

A complaint in the case of Maria Zeb on Harassment at Workplace was received by Sindh Commission on the Status of Women on Aug, 19th2020. The complaint was received via WhatsApp to the chairperson directly.

Harassment at Workplace case

It was stated in the complaint that, I am a mass communication student and also a traveler and a blogger, I know Zohaib Zardari for 4 years. He was known to me through a friend who worked with him at Awaz Channel, he asked me several times to give an interview on any issue on Awaz Channel which I failed to comply due to personal reasons. Lately he offered me to work with him in a project on his youtube channel Zindagi as a host. While working with him he asked me to wear colorful western dresses, he purchased me a kurti for the show and after that keep on messaging me on WhatsApp to become his girlfriend, visit his office and look give feedback regarding the renovation and also asked me to come to his place several times. I get harassed and irritated from his behavior and asked him several times to act professionally but all my requests were ignored.

The Chairperson asked her to visit the office of SCSW to further enquire the situation in detail, Ms Maria provided all the evidence to the commission, the chairperson referred the case to Justice Shah Nawaz Tariq Ombudsman Sindh for the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace and suggested her to register the case with FIA Cyber Crime.

REPORT: MONITORING VISIT OF KARACHI UNIVERSITY Sindh commission on the Status of Women Government of Sindh, 24thAugust 2020

Background

The Chairperson received reports of a PHD student who had committed suicide through the newspaper and social media. Nadia Ashraf a Ph.D student at the Panjwani Center of Molecular Biological Sciences of Karachi University allegedly committed suicide due to her inability to complete her doctoral thesis under the supervision of Dr. Chaudry, who was reportedly creating hindrances for her at the institute and was also accused of harassing her. The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women had previously visited Karachi University (KU) where the KU administration had committed to form sexual harassment complaint committees and to display code of conduct in five main entrances as well as all notice boards of the departments/centers and committees' members name and phone numbers in prominent places of the university as per act 2010 and raise awareness about the sexual harassment laws and complaint procedures. The delegation held the visit to monitor after the recent incident of Nadia Ashraf suicide case where most of the corners and media reports showed that it was harassment against women case. The Chairperson SCSW paid a visit to monitor the implementation of the Protection Against Harassment at the Work Place law 2010 at the Karachi University.



Conversation with the Registrar, Karachi University

The delegation first visited office of the Registrar Karachi University Mr. Saleem Shehzad, held meeting with him at his office. The discussion between the Chairperson and Registrar was regarding the complaint procedures, harassment committees; their SOP's and discussed how harassment at the university could be reduced. The delegation expressed concerns about the fact that the code of conduct was not placed anywhere in the university in the last monitoring visit of SCSW. The university administration committed to display the code of conduct prominently at the five entry points of the university. The registrar responded that they had placed them, but it has now been removed. The registrar said we have committees but excused to provide us with the list and urged to send it as early as possible (not yet received till 16th September 2020). One of the university syndicate member Mr. SM Taha discussed the issue of harassment and shared his student life experience while studying abroad. He further said that the first thing which I proposed on behalf of syndicate that the Harassment Act should be included in the university prospectus. Moreover, in addition it was also proposed that it should also be included in the HEC Harassment policy and should be adopted on immediate basis. Furthermore, a suggestion was also given to raise awareness by posting the Act on university buses. Unfortunately, I would like to bring this in to your knowledge that most of the teaching staff in university is not aware about the Harassment Act 2010 and. The registrar Mr Saleem Shahzad asked the delegation of SCSW to conduct a visit of the university premises and have a word with the students and staff.

Conversation with a Senior Teacher, Karachi University

The delegation met some senior teachers, whilst having a conversation with them one of the teacher informed the delegation that there is an urgent need to bring awareness and change the attitudes of individuals on harassment at the University and urged the delegation to make an example out of this case. The teacher elaborated that such incidence would discourage parents from educating their daughters and emphasized the need to have a proper support and complaint procedures for students and female staff who face harassment. Furthermore, the senior teacher recommended that the delegation must speak with the students in order to identify their grievances.

Observations

- The harassment at work place act 2010 code of conduct was not placed anywhere at the university.
- It was also observed during the monitoring visit that the complete hierarchical structure from the upper grade to the lower one were unaware of the existing laws on the Sindh Protection of Harassment against Women Act 2010.
- Proper procedure and means are not adopted to entertain complaints as defined in the act.
- Students, faculty and other staff at the university were unaware of the university harassment committees along with the names and contact details.
- Lack of vigilance of the university departments by the Ombudsman office Sindh for the protection against harassment of Women at the workplace to raise awareness regarding the laws.
- It was noticed that the students were also in denial to talk openly with the delegation regarding the issues faced by them in campus.
- It was also observed during the monitoring visit that the formed committees were temporarily and on case to case basis.



- The Panjwani Center of Molecular Biological Sciences security personal and student advisory staff were not aware of the Protection against Sexual Harassment at the Work Place act 2010.

Recommendations

- The University should adopt a proper mechanism and procedure as per defined in the act, to address the grievances, to entertain complaints, raise awareness regarding the defined laws and implementation of code of conduct.
- The Commission urges the Ombudsman office Sindh for the protection against harassment of Women at the workplace to charge penalty on any university/organization, who have not displayed the code of conducts of harassment complaint committees along with the names and contact details. Therefore, warning must be given to KU and in case of not following the compliances penalty must be charged as per the act.
- Furthermore, awareness sessions for staff and students must be conducted in all departments to promote gender sensitization.
- Create separate committees for the all Institutes and centers affiliated with Karachi University.
- The commission also urges all the universities in Sindh to adopt HEC Harassment policy. Moreover, Anti-Harassment laws should be included in the University's HR policy.
- Complaints concerning harassment cases should not be made public till the submission of final report to VC and both parties. Furthermore, it is in the Vice Chancellor discretion to public the report or not. However, if any of the party i.e. the complainant or the defendant is not satisfied with the report can pursue the ombudsman office or the courts.
- The Commission urges the concerned authorities that the provincial law on Harassment amended by SCSW and vetted by the law department should be taken as foremost priority in the upcoming cabinet meeting agenda and needs to be approved on immediate basis. Till then, all universities in Sindh must be directed to implement the 'Sindh Protection Against Harassment at the Workplace Act, 2010.
- The Commission further suggests to add Protection Against Sexual Harassment at the Work Place act 2010 and the HEC policy in the university prospectus, admission forms, canteens, notice boards and buses.





Leela Forced Conversion & Domestic Violence Case **Sindh Commission on the Status of Women** **Government of Sindh, 31st August 2020**

Background

A complaint in the case of Leela (Muslim name Fatima) on Domestic Violence and Forced Conversion was received by Sindh Commission on the Status of Women on Aug, 31st2020. The complaint was received from the office of Sindh Human Rights Commission.

Forced Conversion and Domestic Violence

The complaint was made by Naro Mal F/O Leela. It was stated in the complaint that, Hasnain S/O Ameer Ali allured his 15 years old daughter to leave her house, converted her into Muslim and married her. However, Child Marriage Restraint Act prohibits **child marriages** under section 3, which states: Whoever, being a male above eighteen years of age, contracts a **child marriage** shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to three years but shall not be less than two years and shall be liable to fine. Therefore, by law it is prohibited to contract a marriage with a minor who is under 18 and the same law in this regard is set out for conversion of religion. We belong to a lower-class family. It has been 2 years to my daughter's marriage and she is continuously being harassed by her in-laws and do not have the permission to meet any of her family members. She is being tortured mentally and physically. Naro Mal further stated that, few months back when her siblings and grandmother went to meet her, they were abused, threatened and pushed out of the house. Leela told her brother that she is locked in one room and her utensils have been separated. My daughter is facing death threats and she wants to come back to her parents.

The Chairperson was concerned about her situation and referred the case to the IG, Sindh police immediately and urged the concerned authorities to take necessary actions for the redressal of Naro Mal grievances.

REPORT: MONITORING VISIT OF SAMAN GOTH MIRPURKHAS. **To Enquire the Issues Faced by Displaced Women Due To Heavy Rainfall in Sindh** **Sindh Commission on the Status of Women** **Government of Sindh, 09th September 2020**

Background

During the recent rain spell of Monsoon all over Sindh between 18th August to 4th September including Dadu, Thatta, Digri, Mirpurkhas and different districts of Karachi division has received heavy rainfall which resulted in flooding in different areas, all the welfare organizations i.e. hands and others are on field and putting all the efforts to provide relief to the effectees. Mirpurkhas district has received around 530 millimeters of rainfall spread over 3 spells, which has caused huge destruction in the whole of district due to which thousands of people are forced to leave their houses and temporarily living on the sides of roads. Majority of the population is dependent upon agriculture and livestock. However, the recent rain spell has destroyed thousand acres of land due to which the Agri women and daily wagers are unable to work, starving and cannot even afford one-time meal.

In view of the current situation the Chairperson of Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, Government of Sindh Ms. Nuzhat Shirin enquired about the issues faced by women in MirpurKhas District by one of the member SCSW Ms Nusrat Miano. On hearing about the ongoing



devastating situation, the Chairperson in accordance with rules in pursuance of powers confined on her, vide Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Act 2015[Chapter – III (h)] decided to visit the affectees immediately to monitor the situation on September 9, 2020.

Visit to Saman Goth, MirpurKhas

The Chairperson of SCSW along with her office staff and MS Nusrat Miano (Member SCSW) reached Mirpurkhas at 3:00pm and visited different areas of Mirpurkhas to monitor the ongoing situation after this heavy spell of rain. While visiting various Thehsils, the Chairperson enquired about the issues faced by displaced families at Saman Goth, on reaching there the Chairperson was surrounded by people and she entertained all the individuals and listened to their grievances.

The Commission met 24 different families at Saman Goth on three different places. Each family on average consists of 7 family members and the ratio of females was quite higher than males.

On asking one of the female family member the Commission was told that she has 10 kids and they are living on the side of the road from past 14 days and their house which was flooded and destroyed completely due to the heavy rainfall, they were residing in that house from past 15 years, she got emotional while telling us that they built that house by years of hard work and saved penny by penny to provide shelter to their kids and now they are left with nothing.

Another young girl from another family told the Commission that her mom died 4 years ago, she is taking care of her siblings and due to which she cannot go to school as she is overburdened with domestic chores.

Similarly, on asking about the situation another female member told the Commission that all her family members including the females are daily wagers and due to the recent rain spell all of them are unable to work, it has become difficult for them to survive and sustain in the current situation.

Majority of the kids and women were barefoot, the very basic facilities of clean water, washrooms and a proper shelter was nowhere to be seen. On further enquiring during this visit the Commission was told by a lady that they do not have washroom facility, they have to wait till dawn to use washroom and a shower cab was made with few bamboos and pieces of clothes (Picture attached). While having conversation with the effectees it was further noticed that not even a single family member was educated and few of them were recently enrolled in school but due to COVID19 they have not been able to go to school for a single day.

While having a conversation in a friendly environment, the Chairperson asked one of the effectees about how they are combating Covid-19, are they taking care of their kids and following SOP's on which the women chuckled and said we do not have clean drinking water and you are asking us about following the SOP's.

A data was also gathered along with their CNIC numbers during the monitoring visit at Saman Goth which reflects the number of families and the number of kids and women in those families. However, most of them were not registered in Ehsaas Program and the few who were registered were not getting any financial assistance from the program.

The chairperson after listening to all the effectees decided to provide immediate relief on her personal capacity and provided each family a ration bag (Cooking Oil, Rice, Pulses, sugar, Tea, potatoes and onions) which will be sufficient enough for 3 days for all the families.

No. of Families	No. of Houses	No. of Total Family Members	No. of Kids, infants and Women
24	24	147	73



Observation

During the monitoring visit while listening to the grievances of the effectees and looking at the devastated situation by our own unaided senses, the houses and roads has been flooded for the last 17-18 days and no one has made any effort to drain it. Moreover, it was further observed that the very basic necessities were missing. This includes food, clean drinking water, washroom facilities, beds (charpai), Mosquito net and other basic necessities. The effectees are also exposed to the risk of snake bites due to the stagnant water around the place where they are temporarily residing. They also require immediate medical assistance as many of them are falling ill because of the mosquito bites and it is also quite dangerous for their livestock and the life of people is at risk and the current situation may turn in to a disaster if not taken in to account immediately.

Recommendations

Following are the recommendations that the commission would like to give to the concerned authority and would urge them to take possible actions immediately. The commission would also like to urge the NGO's, INGO's and civil society to take this in to account and play their part in providing relief to the effectees all over Sindh.

- Shelter must be provided to all the effectess in a community hall or any school nearby, tents must be provided if no space available in the schools or community halls.
- Mosquito nets and mosquito coils must be provided to all the effectess.
- Clean drinking water must be provided.
- Ration/cooked food must be provided.
- All the women above 18 must be registered in Ehsaas program to provide them with financial assistance.
- Medical camps must be setup to provide free consultation and medicines.
- Clothes and shoes are also needed as many of them have lost their belongings due to the flooding.
- Rehabilitation of the displaced women must be done on immediate basis.

LIST OF AFFECTEES AT MIRPURKHAS SAMAN GOTH, TO WHOM RATION BAGS WERE GIVEN

S NO.	NAME	CNIC
1	Juma	44103-5993165-8
2	Herran W/o Aameen	44103-6086826-9
3	Mangi	44103-5972046-6
4	Lali	44103-3530217-8
5	Amban	44103-7486541-6
6	Lachmi	44103-9404837-8
7	Gaina	44103-9309932-8
8	Takhuri W/o Jairam	44103-2450072-9
9	Gaina W/o Jevan	44103-0266394-9



10	Yasmeen	44103-0601190-2
11	Aial	44103-1881577-4
12	Hakmi	44103-0613877-4
13	Saleemat	44103-8183430-8
14	Fouzia	44103-7151875-7
15	Noor Jahan	44103-9818165-4
16	Jamku	44103-5714628-8
17	Seeta	44103-3422195-8
18	Kari	44103-8364371-0
19	Ladoo	44103-7622916-2
20	Jamni	44103-1707290-0
21	Ganga	44103-9759173-4
22	Lali W/o Chetan	44103-0381231-9
23	Meera	Card Lost
24	Sabeeha W/o Rayo	41701-0594572-9



RATION DISTRIBUTION

Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson, Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, along with her members, started the campaign with the cooperation of the people and the welfare of the deserving people. This series of donations were made possible by own personal capacity and with the help of some philanthropists. Under this, so far 800 ration bags have been distributed among the deserving and needy people in Karachi.

Women are playing a vital role in the development and prosperity of Pakistan. Women of Pakistan are working day and night for the welfare and proving that women are an important pillar of any society. We have continued to provide rations without any discrimination to the poor in villages, churches, temples and various slum areas.

Ration bags has been distributed in all the districts of Karachi among deserving women, families with the help of women volunteers across the city and all over Sindh.



DETAILS OF DISTRIBUTION

- Mr. Khizer Qazi Human Rights Activist with the help of Edhi Foundation distributed Ration to Minorities (Hindu Community) at Mithi, Tharparkar, Sindh.
- Mr. Jibran Nasir Social and Political Activist distributed Ration at Mehmoodabad, Karachi to some needy families.
- Ms. Rahila Rahim member Sindh Commission on Status of Women and representative of HANDS Organization distributed Ration to Transgender Community of Karachi.



- Ms. Darakshan Sualeh member Sindh Commission on Status of Women with the cooperation of Seylani Welfare Trust distributed 250 ration bags at Khair Muhammad Goth, Khuda Ki Basti.
- Basti-Karachi. Representatives of Selani Welfare Trust Mr. Munawar, Mr. Shoukat, Mr. Qamar Attari and Mr. Muzaher Humayoon Sualeh were also there for supervision. She also contributed cash amount of Rs. 50,000 to deserving needy women with the support of family and friends.
- Ms. Mussarat Jabeen member Sindh Commission on Status of Women and Director Women Development Department facilitated home-based workers of Musharraf Colony.
- Ms. Mangla Sharma and Mr. Satram Dass looked after the request of minority families' distribution of ration.
- Ms. Fizza Zishan philanthropist and her team distributed ration to the churches, temples, various slum areas.
- Ms. Sadia Agha philanthropist with the support of donors distributed ration in many areas of Sindh. i.e. Karachi, Dadu, Hyderabad, Sanghar, Sukkur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas, Chorr: Tharparkar, Umarkot etc.
- Ms. Fauzia Siddiqui Social Worker in her own personal capacity distributed ration and cash amount of Rs. 30,000 to all over Karachi, she mainly focused on widows & divorcee women in need.
- Ms. Hina Sehar President Naseer Memorial Welfare Society distributed ration in Sachal Goth & Safora Goth.
- Ms. Madiha Adil Social Worker on request of Aurat Foundation recommended by SCSW provided monetary help to a family in Gulistan e Johar who lost job and in critical situation due to the lockdown. She gave Rs. 30,000 to that family.
- Ms. Shazia Jafrani Councilor, UC 18, District East Karachi with her own personal capacity & support of Hunaid Lakhani Trust distributed ration in Mirpurkhas, ShaadiPali, Tando Allahyar, Tando-e-Jam and Umarkot and Karachi.
- Ms. Maria Qaseem distributed ration with her own personal capacity & support of family and friends at Banghoria Goth, Muhammadi Colony, Naimat Colony, Azizabad of District Central Karachi and Sualeh Goth of District East.

CASE STUDIES

When the Commission visited Khair Muhammad Goth, Khuda Ki Basti-Karachi, on behalf of the SCSW, Mrs. Habib, a resident, not only showed the great hospitality towards us, she also gave us her house voluntarily to keep the bags of ration there and distribute fairly among the deserving women peacefully. She divided the ration into three parts and spread them to the needy so that no one goes hungry.

Similarly, Mrs. Farah who lives in Sachal Goth (Village) Karachi, her husband was a rider and lost his job due to lockdown is unemployed now. When Sindh Commission on the Status of Women delivered the ration to her, she sent that bag of ration to her neighbor as they were also in need. A great gesture, a symbol of humanity! I must say, Mrs. Farah, is a brave woman. She did not give up in this difficult



time and with the help of people, she has started a small business (selling clothes) from her house. Farah preferred to work rather than beg. May Allah bless her and remove the difficulties.

During ration distribution in District Korangi Karachi, the Commission have distributed ration bags to various families, including the minorities, the Hindu community too. There was a Hindu family, comprised of a husband, wife, and three children. The wife's name is Anita Mukesh and her husband's name was Mukesh Kumar. When she was offered ration, Anita said that she is not in need of ration; it should be given to someone else in need. Then we tried to give her some cash as help, Anita declined it saying that we are living in some way or another, my husband's work will start one day sooner or later, therefore help is required to those who are not able to meet their ends in this dire situation.

Sindh Commission on the Status of Women

Violence against women during COVID-19

Report by SCSW

Cases received through WhatsApp request to chairperson SCSW

Sr#	Case /date	Issue	Refer to	Remarks
1.	28 th March 2020	Isra violence case	Police	One arrested no further action taken
2.	26 th march 2020	Yasmin nurse case	Police	No response on time from the police
3.	20 th march 2020	Ibrahim Hyderi harassment Case	Police and minister Education	Not responded yet
4.	19 th march 2020	Abbasi Shaheed hospital nurses harassment case	Police	Official arrested
5.	30 th march 2020	Girls inheritance rights	Post in VAW committee of SCSW	Online service will be started for legal Support
6.	25 th March 2020	Aqsa violence against women case	Refer to shelter home/ police station	Shelter home refused to admit any new case in shelter home because of no facility has been established for the scanning /test of Covid19 and isolation facilities in all shelter homes
7.	20 th April 2020	Saher Tahir domestic Violence Case	Referred the case to the concerned authority	Followed up to this case and attended the court hearings. The case is in process.
8.	25 th April 2020	Matli Domestic Violence case	Police	Requested the police to remove the false FIR made against the victim father.
9.	4 th May 2020	Humaira Domestic Violence Case	Police	Went for the condolence of the family and gave instructions to the police to arrest the culprit



10.	29 th May 2020	Malik Kumari abducted and early child marriage case	Police and court	Attended the court hearings. The case is in ongoing at a time.
11.	3 rd June 2020	Saba domestic violence and blackmail	Police	Requested the police to register her FIR
12.	4 th July 2020	Wazeeran murder case	Police	Instructed the police to arrest the culprits and report was sent to concerned government officials and IG police to take necessary action.
13.	16 th July 2020	Muskan attempted rape case (by father)	Police	Police was instructed to register FIR against the culprit and arrest him.
14.	11 August 2020	Noor Afshan Domestic Violence case	Police (Referred to IG POLICE) (Case handled by Shahra e Faisal station)	Received a complaint through WhatsApp, action was taken with the help of police and the lady was released from her husband's house by SCSW and police. FIR has also been registered at Shahra e Faisal police station. Divorce has been filed on request of Noor Afshan and the case has been successfully completed.
15.	13 th August 2020	Samina's Acid Attack Case	Police	Referred the police to take Samina's statement in Karachi. Moreover, it has also been referred to the police to shift the case from Nawabshah to Karachi. Requested civil hospital to admit the girl.
16.	18 August 2020	Arooj Noman Domestic Violence case	Not referred to anyone	The case was not referred to anyone. The case was resolved through mediation between the parties at SCSW office.
17.	19 August 2020	Maria Zaib Harrasment at work place case	Ombudsman Sindh for the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace and FIA cybercrime.	Referred to Harrasment at workplace office Justice Shah Nawaz Tariq and launched a complaint at FIA Cybercrime on Aug, 12 2020.
18.	31 st August 2020	Leela Naro Mal forced conversion case and Domestic Violence Case	Referred to IG POLICE	Received a complaint through Sindh Human Rights Commission and forwarded the complaint to IG police.



19.	3 rd September 2020	Nasira Domestic Violence case	Not referred to anyone	The case was not referred to anyone. The complainant didn't have NIC, the chairperson guided her to first make her NIC and file an FIR
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CONCLUSION

COVID-19 presented a massive number of challenges to the province of Sindh and alongside the Sindh government, the Sindh Commission on Status of Women worked tirelessly in order to provide relief to the subjects. With lockdown imposed across the province, the SCSW ensured that the complaints of the women faced with several challenges like domestic abuse, workplace harassment, food deficiency, unemployment, are well heard and addressed. In this regard, SCSW Chairperson ensured establishment of a special helpline to reach out to the complainants and managed the work even from her home.

With some ease in lockdown, the department resumed its working on ground with monitoring visits to different areas of the province to distribute food supplements. In Karachi alone, 800 ration bags were distributed among the needy, while SCSW extended the relief to many other districts of Sindh as well with the help of different donors. The department also made efforts to provide assistance to the women complainants facing harassment at workplaces, households and educational institutes in the meantime.

Another important challenge arising meanwhile was the heavy spell of rains that caused displacement of almost 2.5million people, according to Sindh government estimates, in the flood-ravaged districts of Sindh. SCSW team paid visit to Mirpurkhas district and observed the ground situation that portrayed a bleak picture. While many of the affected still awaited the assistance from concerned authorities, SCSW exhausted its available resources to provide ration bags to some of the families in need. SCSW recommends that all governmental and private resources be channelized to reach out to the flood affectees and temporary shelters as well as medical camps be arranged on urgent basis, especially for the women and children.