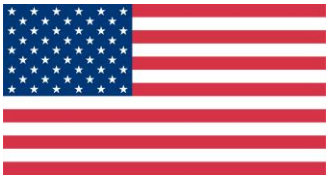
# Project Completion Report

## Gender-Based Violence Reduction in Pakistan through Increased Justice System Capacity

**Reporting Period: July 1st, 2023 – March 31st, 2024**

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The Asia Foundation




## Table of Contents


| Sr. # | Description | Page # |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Background | 1 |
| 2 | Introduction | 1-2 |
| 3 | Objectives of the project | 2 |
| 4 | Executive summary | 2-3 |
| 5 | Details of overall progress to-date<br>a. Community meetings<br>b. Mobile legal aid camps<br>c. Practice sharing workshop<br>d. Networking workshop | 3-6 |
| 6 | Project Analysis | 6-7 |
| 7 | IEC Material Distribution | 7 |
| 8 | Success stories | 7-8 |
| 9 | Challenges | 8-9 |
| 10 | Recommendations | 9-10 |
| 11 | Lessons Learned | 10 |
| 12 | Annexures<br>a) Eligibility criteria for the selection of Volunteers<br>b) List of volunteers<br>c) pictures | 11-15 |

## 1.Background:

Gender Base Violence is deeply rooted in Pakistani society is the byproduct of widespread gender in equality, patriarchal norms, local traditions and religious and societal practices that discriminate widely against women's and girls. Law enforcement agencies often intimidate women and dismiss their complains. For cases that enter the criminal justice system, weak investigation and evidence gathering impede the successful prosecution of cases. In recent government statistics eight out of nine indicators of violence had high accordance nationwide, namely; child abused child labor child marriage domestic violence, violence against women, rape, kidnapping and owner killing. The Covid-10 pandemic has exposed gaps and re enforce the importance of needed reforms in the judicial and police system for addressing GBV, engaging religious leaders, and effectively using social media to address GBV

By building the capacity of legal professionals including judges and courts administrator and prosecutors , GBV social workers, police, Local jirga, and communities to manage and prosecute cases and by increasing coordination and collaboration among key stakeholders and enhancing their knowledge of survivor-centered and trauma informed approaches in handling GBV cases, and by increasing public awareness of the impact of GBV on society and individuals, the program will improve the handling of GBV cases in Pakistan and prioritize the need of victim

## 2.Introduction:

The Asia foundation in collaboration with a partner organization engaged the judicial system of Punjab province to reduce GBV through an increase justice system capacity program. FDO is one of the partner organizations for working in the project for six months by awareness raising activities with the help of stake holders from community for the reduction of GBV cases. Project's goal is strengthening the Pakistan's justice institution adequately process GBV cases while prioritizing the needs of the victim mobilizing community networks to reduce the incidence of GBV by engaging these justice institutions. Public awareness also be increasing to foster accountably around the impact of GBV on society and individual victims. Under this project, the FDO as partner being started work for the project implementation with community network by conducting field activities.

The project aimed to address the pervasive issue of gender-based violence (GBV) in Pakistan through a multifaceted approach. It focused on raising awareness, providing legal support services, and advocating for policy changes to create a safer environment for women, girls and marginalized genders.

Awareness Campaigns: Conducted community meetings and mobile legal aid camps to educate people about GBV, its causes, consequences, and prevention measures through referral mechanism. FDO gave awareness campaigns and gave Support Services through Dastageer helplines and counseling Dastageer centers to provide immediate support and assistance to GBV survivors. FDO try to work for Gender based violence reduction by Advocacy as engaged with policymakers, legal experts, and civil society organizations to advocate for legislative reforms and effective implementation of existing laws related to GBV.

Although Project completed in December 2023, successfully but The Asia foundation extended the project for three months further in future for work women egal empowerment about their basic and legal rights. In the implementation of further project activities four activities would be conducted in seven targeted districts. Two practice sharing workshops and two networking workshops would be organized by FDO in two months of February and March in targeted districts.

## 3.Objectives of the project:

1. Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement, investigative officials, prosecutors, legal aid professionals, victims advocate, local jirga officials and judicial officers to manage prosecute GBV cases in Punjab province
2. Strengthen corporation and coordination between stakeholders to improve survivors -centric approaches in handling GBV cases
3. Foster accountably through increased awareness of the impact of GBV on society and the individual victims.
4. Raise awareness about the different forms of GBV.
5. Provide support services to survivors of GBV.
6. Advocate for policy changes to strengthen legal frameworks addressing GBV.
7. Promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

## 4.Executive summary:

FDO started lead in seven districts including Multan, Layyah, Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Vehari and Okara in July 2023 and worked for GBV survivor with the help of community stakeholders by engaging them in the field activities. FDO tried to aware females on their not only rights also their legal rights. In the month of July FDO started work in seven districts with the coordination of different stakeholders and governments departments under the project titled Gender Based violence reduction In Pakistan through increased justice system capacity.

In six months of this project FDO conducted the field activities of community level in targeted districts. In which a large number of females participated in these activities and they were excited to know about their legal rights it was highly appreciated when they found females lawyer with them in their community they said before this they don't participated in this type of any activity and this is a great initiative of FDO to engaged lawyers for community and try to build strong coordination of lawyers with community members.

Females asked that they are bearing and facing many types of violence in their lives and they don't have any opportunity how to express and share their issues with lawyers or any other person of locality, they said our social norms and pressure from society and poverty is the main cause of violence. The female of the community said the most dangerous kind of violence is mental torcher/ Psychological violence which has no evidence to express our tensions. FDO organized many communities meeting in educational institutions on the demands of the community stakeholders and many heads of such educational institution when we have conducted community meetings in different schools and academies, Institutions the students came to know their basic and legal rights and about what is violence and kinds of violence, lawyers (Resource persons) told them how females protect themselves at work place harassment. Many of them told they are facincing cyber-crime issue and they are worried by whom to discussed and from where we get remedy in case

of violence because if they share these issues with their parents the parents asked them to leave their schools and institutions which was very difficult for the students how to face the problems in these circumstances. The student's girls were very exited when they come to know about their rights Gender Based Violence and How can support GBV survivors with the help of Law under this project.
In many villages, females don't allow to participate such type of activities ones in Okara district we organized legal aid camp in a Chak no female visited there accept some of them the men of the community asked they don't like that female go to court for their problems or in case of domestic violence They asked they always resolved their domestics problems with in the Bradary/ Punchiyat. We have many experiences by conducting field activities we try all the community stakeholders participate in these field activities and work for Gender based violence reduction.

At the end of this project, we feel many females became aware and now they can rise their voice with the help of community stakeholders against Gender Based Violence in case of any violence but we think still need more awareness in the community as females feels fear they think if they raise their voice in case of violence the society may abuse them. Resource person (lawyers) of all targeted districts try to support GBV survivors they served their services free and also promised they continue their work for the sustainability of the project. Because many females get free legal services in their problems and now, they are living happy family life after getting relief from courts.
The lawyer briefly described about violence Gender Based Violence they introduced redressal mechanism to GBV survivors.
Many community meetings organized in governments departments such as Dar ul Aman, Women Protection Authority, Women Crises Center, Sanatzar which was good experience. We females of the community were invited there and this was first time for them to participate in governments institution and work with each other's.
Both the activities community meeting and mobile legal aid camps made the females powerful by having knowledge about violence and have support from community stakeholders and lawyers all the peoples females students community stakeholders incharges of educational Institution head of departments pay thanks to FDO and the ASIA foundation for conducting most informative, supportive and Law knowing activities by empowering and women's and liasoning each other's and Gender Based Violence Reduction Through Increase Justice System Capacity.
Mostly people took legal advice and legal aid through visited these legal Aid camps organized by FDO with Lawyers. Many cases files in the court and also win in favor of pliantly. Mostly issue was discussed with lawyers.
All the lawyers give their services free of cost through legal aid camps.

## 5. Details of overall progress to-date:

### a) Community meetings:

Objectives of Activity:

FDO successfully completed the community meetings seven targeted districts according to time line, In six month FDO conducted 42 community meetings. Basic objectives of these community meetings were to engage identified stakeholders to increasing knowledge and give awareness to women

about women legal rights we effort participate community influential participated in these community meeting and they promised to support and help GBV survivors through these community meetings male, females, transgender, local community members youth, student religious leaders' teachers, local government representative participated in these community meeting held in seven targeted districts during last three months of the project.

Under these project FDO give awareness and liason people with each other's in case of GBV issues or violence many females came to know their legal rights. Now they have confidence to take help from lawyers in person or through any help line.

**Details as under:**

| Sr. | District | Male | Female | TG | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Layyah | 40 | 168 | 1 | 209 |
| 2 | Sahiwal | 36 | 180 | 0 | 216 |
| 3 | Okara | 26 | 175 | 1 | 202 |
| 4 | Pak-Pattan | 43 | 201 | 0 | 244 |
| 5 | Multan | 38 | 166 | 2 | 206 |
| 6 | Bahawalpur | 103 | 93 | 0 | 196 |
| 7 | Vehari | 60 | 130 | 1 | 191 |
| | Grand Total | 346 | 1113 | 5 | 1464 |

### b) Mobile Legal Aid Camps:

FDO setup 28 mobile legal aid camps in targeted seven districts in the last three months of the project with the help of district level organization. The purpose of these camps to provide basic legal services to women of the community with from lawyer without pay any cost fees these camps were temporary help desk and were managed by lawyer in the selected location based on need women were received legal assistance and legal advice. One camp setup in every month we mostly organized these camps in community level with the help of lawyer, many females visited the mobile legal camps and take legal advise in their issues this were good experiment organized legal aid camp with local members people happy and asked this is first time and also need based to setup free legal aid camp and lawyer giving their services in community level which was so difficult to access to justice with free of cost, many lawyer field the suits of women in the family courts

**Details as under:**

| Sr. | District | Male | Female | TG | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Layyah | 102 | 252 | 0 | 354 |
| 2 | Sahiwal | 117 | 193 | 0 | 310 |
| 3 | Okara | 113 | 199 | 3 | 315 |
| 4 | Pak-Pattan | 79 | 288 | 0 | 367 |
| 5 | Multan | 55 | 263 | 0 | 318 |
| 6 | Bahawalpur | 127 | 181 | 0 | 308 |
| 7 | Vehari | 74 | 261 | 0 | 335 |
| | Grand Total | 667 | 1637 | 3 | 2307 |

### c) Practice-Sharing workshop:

Activity Objectives:

To engaged community stakeholders, Lawyers, Youth and CSOs representatives participated in practice-sharing workshop. Briefly discussion was made for further increase of capacity by sharing and advocating for effective implementation of laws and policies through these community stakeholders by increasing knowledge and awareness of women's legal rights and liaison GBV survivors with community influentials in the assigned district through these advocacy practice sharing workshops. Community stakeholder, lawyers, youth, peoples from PWPA participated from four districts such as Multan, Bahawalpur, Layyah, Vehari.

**Details as under:**

| Sr. | District | Male | Female | TG | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Multan, Bahawalpur, Layyah, Vehari | 14 | 16 | 0 | 30 |
| 2 | Sahiwal, Okara, Pakpattan | 12 | 15 | 0 | 27 |
| | Grand Total | 26 | 31 | 0 | 57 |

### d) Networking Working workshop:

Activity Objectives:

In this networking workshop to engaged community stakeholders, Lawyers, Youth and CSOs representatives participated. Focus on Building awareness among the participating institutions on their respective roles. Briefly discussion was made for further increase of capacity by sharing and advocating for effective implementation of laws and policies through these community stakeholders by increasing knowledge and awareness of women's legal rights and liaison GBV survivors with community influentials in the assigned district through these advocacy practice sharing workshops. Community stakeholder, lawyers, youth, peoples from PWPA participated from four districts such as Multan, Bahawalpur, Layyah, Vehari.

**Details as under:**

| Sr. | District | Male | Female | TG | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Multan, Bahawalpur, Layyah, Vehari | 13 | 6 | 1 | 20 |
| 2 | Sahiwal, Okara, Pakpattan | 19 | 9 | 0 | 28 |
| | Grand Total | 32 | 15 | 1 | 48 |

## 6. Project Analysis:

FDO is worked in seven districts Multan, Vehari, Layyah, Sahiwal, Pak-Pattan, Okara and Bahawalpur. When we start project activities, people were not aware their legal rights especially females were facing and bearing social behavior in their domestic problems females of the community don't know about the Gender Based Violence and they have no any platform from the give support or any legal assistance when project started FDO engaged all the member of local community youth, teachers, local governments representative, religious leaders in the field activities when people participated these meeting and visited the legal aid camp they give know lead about their legal rights know they are working with FDO with the passion of to support GBV survivors females came to know how they can take legal assistance from lawyers people asked before this they don't participated such kind of activities and note seen the lawyer in the community activities successfully complete many women's and stakeholders working for Gender Based Violence Reduction In Pakistan by playing their vital role in society females know the governments departments who working for women. FDO introduce many help lines of the government departments working for women many religion leaders described the community about violence in Islam and how we worked for reduction of Gender Based Violence stakeholders worked with FDO and promised to liason GBV survivor with lawyer and any other legal adviser working on the behalf of the state this completed know but the sustainability for the GBV survivors promised to contain their efforts for reduction of Gender Based Violence in Pakistan. IEC materials. FDO print the IEC material for discriminate in the field activities in all community meeting and mobile legal aid camps FDO distributed the branches about Gender Based Violence in which we give the details of law on Gender Based Violence Government Institute and crises contains we also mention help line number on it for free legal advice this IEC material helpful for community members.

In above view FDO try to Increased Awareness such as Significant improvement in public awareness regarding GBV issues, evidenced by increased attendance in workshops and a surge in helpline calls.
Support Services: Successfully provided support to numerous GBV survivors through counseling, legal aid, and temporary mobile legal aid camps, enabling them to seek justice and rebuild their lives.
Improve Policy Reforms, Advocacy efforts resulted in the introduction of new legislation and amendments to existing laws aimed at strengthening protections for GBV survivors and improving access to justice.
Capacity Building: Enhanced the capacity of relevant stakeholders to effectively respond to GBV cases, leading to improved coordination among different sectors and better support for survivors.

**7. <u>IEC Material Distribution</u>**:

FDO engaged the youth volunteers for seven districts (each from one district) to disseminate the IEC materials. The IEC Material not yet received from TAF, FDO printed and distributed the IEC material in field activities and also distributed in these activities in which the government departments who working for women protection and also help line numbers of the said departments were given in these brouchers. If TAF provided IEC material this material placed in local hospitals, clinics, shelter home, prison, girl's colleges and universities. This material also distributed in three points in each month for a duration of three days in each district. Youth volunteers pointed out and shared the points with FDO where they distribute after receiving the IEC material. This IEC material would be helpful to convey the message of Gender Based violence reduction in Pakistan under this project to the community. People take information that how can they help GBV survivor help by receiving this

**8. <u>Success stories:</u>**

1. Asia Bibi W/O Muhamad Ali cast Bhatti R/O Block A, Street # 6, Vehari have 3 children therefore case was referred to lawyer for suit of maintenance of 3 children. Both are agreed to compromise.



2. A lady visited the MLACs in district Multan and said her husband beated and kickout her from his house he torched physically and psychologically Now she don't want to live with him. The plaint for dissolution of marriage was filed on 2/11/2023 which was decreed on 17/11/2023 in favor of plaintiff




3. Mst Parveen Bibi contacted with lawyer for legal help for recover her daughter from illegal custody the lawyer filed a CRL. M.No 5382-h23 before Honorable High Court Bahawalpur bench on 18/12/2023, the daughter of client Husna bibi was recovered on 21/12/2023, the resource person (lawyer) performed his legal services free of cost. The client refused to take her picture.

4. Mst Amna Bibi contacted with resource person for file her suit regarding Haqul Mahar/maintenance. Suit was filed before the family court Bahawalpur which has been decided on dated 06/02/2024, on behalf of compromise, Before the court of Ms. Zara Fayyaz Judge family court Bahawalpur free legal services provided to client.

**9. <u>Challenges:</u>**

- People avoid to share their details in attendance sheet with us because they think we will arrest them as political critical condition in Pakistan.
- People were afraid to participate in these activities due to security risk.

- Time period of the project was too short as the day became short in November it was difficult to conduct two activities in the same day.
- In cotton picking season females not available to participate in the field activities

- In some areas females were not allowed to participate in community meetings and mobile legal aid camps.
- Females not allowed to take their protest in some districts.
- Females avoid to share their domestic issues with us because of social barears.
- In some government departments another community member was not allowed to participate in the activities such as Sanatzar, Dar ul Aman, Any other educational institutes.
- Legal advisers were not available due to care taker government mostly legal advisors were D-notified.
- Strength of mobile legal aid camps was too much; it was difficult to sixty participants visit in the camps in one day.
- Sociocultural Barriers, Deep-rooted cultural norms and societal attitudes posed challenges in addressing GBV and promoting gender equality.
- Resource Constraints, Limited funding and resources hindered the implementation of certain project activities and the scale of outreach efforts.
- Legal Hurdles, despite advocacy efforts, gaps in legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms continued to impede the effective prosecution of GBV cases.

## 10. Recommendations:

- This project was only for six months which is too short period of six months in each district.
- Strength of participant was too much for the activities it was difficult to call the people.
- The police departments and prosecutors should be bound to participate in these community meetings
- We should be planning income generate projects for the empowerment of women.
- Provide link to GBV survivors into make them entrepreneur for their life as the basic cause of violence in poverty
- Collaboration with government departments (Law Enforcement Agencies, Local Government, Social Welfares) for the protection of GBV survivors.
- Long term awareness programs.

- To Continued Advocacy, sustain advocacy efforts to address legal gaps and improve enforcement mechanisms for GBV-related laws.

- To Strengthen Partnerships, Foster stronger partnerships with government agencies, civil society organizations, and international stakeholders to enhance the impact of GBV reduction initiatives.
- Promote community involvement and ownership of GBV prevention programs through targeted awareness campaigns and grassroots interventions.

## 11. Lessons Learned:

- Collaborative Approach, Collaboration with local communities, government agencies, and NGOs is essential for the success of GBV reduction initiatives.
- Long-term Commitment, Sustainable change requires continuous efforts and long-term investments in raising awareness, providing support services, and advocating for policy reforms.
- Empowerment and Education, Empowering women and girls through education and economic opportunities is crucial for preventing GBV and promoting gender equality.
- Conclusion: Despite various challenges, the project made significant strides in raising awareness, providing support services, and advocating for policy changes to reduce gender-based violence in Pakistan. However, sustained efforts and collective action are necessary to address the root causes of GBV and achieve lasting change in the society.
- Acknowledgments, We extend our gratitude to all project partners, donors, stakeholders, and individuals who contributed to the success of this initiative and supported our efforts to combat gender-based violence in Pakistan.

## 12. Annexures:

### a) Eligibility criteria for the selection of Volunteers:

1. Volunteers must be matriculation in education.
2. Must have the experience of volunteer
3. Knows about local language
4. Having knowledge the community where GBV issue occurs and need of awareness
5. Communication skills

### b) List of volunteers:

| Sr. | Name | Age | Qualification | Volunteering Experience | Contact Number | CNIC Number | Districts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Hafiz Hammad Hassan | 38 | B. A | Social mobilizer & Field volunteer. | 03027304487 | 3630222885755 | Multan |
| 2 | Muhammad Jaleel | 26 | Matric | Volunteer experience VSO, international, sales | 03089154327 | 3220359890777 | Layyah |
| 3 | Faisal Zahoor | 25 | Matric | Six-month job, Punjab collage | 03077147236 | | Vehari |
| 4 | Noman Yousuf | 22 | BA | Experience as volunteer | 03047997671 | 3530201221299 | Okara |
| 5 | Khadim Hussain | 28 | B. A | 3 Years Working experience as volunteer | 03063917876 | 3640254585841 | Pakpattan |
| 6 | Tahir Nadeem | 29 | Matric | Working with NRSP, Awaz,11 project | 03014596484 | 3120231950199 | Bahawalpur |
| 7 | Muhammad Naqash | 30 | Matric | Having a lot of experience with different organizations | 03059196583 | 3650227709147 | Sahiwal |

c) **Pictures:**



Community meeting in Okara held on 8/11/2023



Community meeting in Sahiwal held on 16/11/2023




Community meeting in BWP held on 25/11/2023




Community meeting in Multan held on12/11/2023




Community meeting in vehari held on 24/08/2023




Community meeting in Pak-Pattan held on 22/09/2023




MLACs in BWP held on 25/11/2023




MLACs in Pak-Pattan held on 23/11/2023




MLACs in Layyah held on 12/09/2023




MLACs in Okara held on 20/10/2023






| | |
|---|---|
| MLACs in Sahiwal held on 14/12/2023 | MLACs in Vehari held on 15/12/2023 |

| Networking workshop, D-Shalimar hotel, Multan held on 28/02/2024 | Networking workshop, Usmania hotel, Sahiwal held on 21/03/2024 |
|---|---|
|  |  |
|  |  |





| Practice-sharing workshop, D-Shalimar hotel, Multan held on 28/02/2024 | Practice-sharing workshop, Usmania Hotel Sahiwal held on 21/03/2024 |
|---|---|
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|   |  |



