

## **Regional Initiative for the Rights to Sustainable Livelihood and Enabling Environment for Social and Political Participation:**

“Regional Initiative for the Rights to Sustainable Livelihood and Enabling Environment for Social and Political Participation” has been yet another matter of deep interest to SAP-PK. This project is a regional initiative of the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA). The Consortium was formed in 1997, aiming to advocate and assist in materializing SAARC Social Charter. It is therefore another significant opportunity for SAP-PK to be part of the process of synergies’ development on issues of human rights, particularly of women, peasants and workers, not only at the national but also the regional level.

CHA is working exclusively on livelihood, violence against women, human rights, child labor and issue of mainstreaming of the physically challenged out of an exhaustive list of areas as enshrined in the SAARC Social Charter. The areas of CHA’s interest technically cut across three main categories and each country partner follows essentially the same pattern. Following is the brief on these three categories:

**1) Stocktaking and Resources Allocation:** This category is for creating databank of the profiles of like-minded organizations of SAARC countries, developing national policy-critique for sensitization of the stakeholders and undertaking regional policy reviews on the basis of the feedback, reports and critiques.

**2) Empowerment and Support for Vulnerability Protection:** Its purpose is to form *Community Protection Networks (CPNs)* of the social workers and community members, capacitate those groups to undertake advocacy and mobilize people, conduct review and create a national body for providing policy guidance.

**3) Transfer of Customized Knowledge for Civic Administration:** This category of the programs is mandated to design training kits for delivering rights-based knowledge to the communities, disseminating SAARC social charter among masses for their education, providing small grants to community-based groups for their advocacy initiatives, equipping them with knowledge of stocktaking/mapping, human rights, social education and communication, etc., developing linkages among them and providing advisory services to them.

OXFAM Novib provides financial resources to the CHA for undertaking the said project. The CHA then shares its resources through country partners with different community-based initiatives. SAP-Pk is one of CHA’s country partners since 2004.

### **Community Protection Networks (CPNs)**

CPNs are networks of local organizations and individuals to advocate the protection of basic human rights and improvement in hardscrabble livelihoods of the peasantry, to support emancipation of women from all forms of oppression, and to act as watchdog with regards to the local development initiatives.

Presently, there are 18 CPNs working in 18 districts of Punjab and Sindh province in Pakistan. These networks draw their strength from about 250 male and 100 female members from different fields of life. Essentially, these are advocacy networks which receive trainings from SAP-Pk and articulate their position on the mentioned issues, assist women who are victims of violence and trigger peoples’ participation for social, political and economic change.

### **National Protection Working Group (NPWG)**

NPWG is a body of development professionals, academicians, lawyers, journalists and technical experts to provide policy guidelines to CPNs as well as country partners on matters related to advocacy. SAP-Pk has 20 male and female members in its NPWG, from the same walks of life. NPWG meets at least one a year.

In 2006, CPNs in Pakistan undertook many activities. For instance, they:

- Organized 216 monthly sensitization-meetings on human rights, livelihood rights, violence against women, in their respective communities in which about 6,000 people were sensitized;
- Assisted at least 10 female victims in receiving legal support and social protection
- Held 40 meetings with service delivery departments for improved services in their areas

Similarly, SAP-Pk also undertook many activities in the reported year. For instance, SAP-Pk:

- 1 Created 18 new CPNs in Punjab and Sindh province
- 2 Conducted two training workshops, i.e.,:
  - Water Resource Management (Punjab; eight male and four female participants; March 15)
  - CPNs and Their Role in (Punjab; 36 male and 11 female participants; April 29-30, 06)
- 3 Developed a toolkit for six-days' training on rights, justice and development, for the development workers from South Asia (to be finalized after CHA comments on it)
- 4 Organized Review Visits to CPNs (Punjab in April 06, Sindh in May 06)
- 5 Assisted in organizing NPWG meeting (December 21)
- 6 Computerized 270 profiles of local and national level organizations that are working with similar objectives
- 7 Distributed translated version of SAARC Social Charter among 5000 individuals and organizations, to provide them insight into the official undertaking of the South Asian states and suggest them to take actions accordingly