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FEMPOWER PAKISTAN

(Feminist Leadership for Accountability and Political Rights)

Project No. P006186

PROJECT OPERATIONS REPORT- April-March 2022

1) Changes in Context

Report on changes to country/region context (gender equality, human rights, environment, socio economic, political, cultural) which have affected the project only during the reporting period. Explain if and how understanding of context has changed over the reporting period and how this has affected project implementation

The third project year also proved as challenging in implementation of activities those have been piled up during the first two project years in result of delays majorly caused by Covid-19. The year started a bit slow in terms of implementation with the onset of the third wave of Corona. Other factors such as **Ramzan and Eid holidays** also contributed to the interruptions and long gaps in field activities.

In response, to the third wave of Covid the Punjab underwent a series of stiff smart lockdowns in the months of **April, July and September 2021**. As part of the steps taken to control the pandemic, the provincial government tightened control over social distancing requirements and travel restrictions and banned all kinds of public gatherings (indoor/outdoor) in areas with the highest number of cases reported.

The lockdown disrupted field activities and disturbed the administrative and financial routine of the office, resulting, in delays, among other things, field partner payments as well. This disruption of the work tempo and scheduled **Work Plan activities** had a domino effect as it delayed report submissions by focal persons/field partners. When the Simorgh office reopened after the Covid-Eid lockdown and project teams started the process of initiating the necessary field activities. Due to SOP constraints a limited number of field activities were initiated.

The mid July lockdown was imposed to prevent virus spread due to **Eid-ul-Azha gatherings**. Work was further slowed down as one of Fempower project team members was declared positive. This resulted in stricter observation of SOPs on our part, especially during field visits. A week long lockdown and travel restrictions by the provincial government in **September 2021** over the low reported vaccination rate also delayed the Leadership TOT scheduled for that period. To meet the project targets the project team requested stakeholders to ensure their Covid vaccination to continue the small session of social mapping/PRAs. During this period different government departments in Lahore. Kasur and Toba Tek Singh also did not allow community exposure visits and excused to facilitate a group of 10-15 females. The leadership trainings planed in second quarter could not be conducted due to the lockdown and travelling restrictions – later shifted in Q3.

During the third quarter project team focused on the long overdue project components of social accountability and leadership that had been delayed due to i) a week long violent protest by Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) in **October 2021**, which caused nationwide security concerns and, ii) the restoration of Local Bodies by the Supreme Court under the Local Government Act 2019 on October 17, 2021 and the subsequent return of the erstwhile defunct councilors to their offices. As many of the councilors were actively involved with Fempower, their return to official duties affected their availability for project activities. Consequently, most of the councilors who are part of the Fempower project rejoined their offices. Official duties/responsibilities impacted their availability for project activities.

Most of the female councilors in Lahore also excused themselves from project activities during the months of **Oct-Nov 2021 to run the election campaign in NA 133**. These caused delays in holding leadership trainings and exposure visits to the local service providers.

It has also been observed that during Q4 most of the CSO partners and the councilors were engaged with other alliances/networks which limited their participation in Fempowertr project activities. On continuous follow-ups with CSO partners and councilors it came into seen that majority of them did not work on their SAPs which caused delay in holding Khuli Katcheris. Furthermore, follow-ups on ASN based applications also showed a delay of service delivery by government departments and denial of availability of funds caused halts in undertaking different community led initiatives under ASN in district Lahore. ASN groups of Kasur and TTS did not develop their agendas to conduct ASN meetings during the 4th quarter and postpone meetings due to their engagement with FAFEN led activities. Moreover, unavailability of funds in this budget head also bound project team to not to hold ASNs in the fourth quarter. With all these, increasing instability in Pakistani politics also drew the attention of opposition parties to conduct rallies against the PTI government in the situation when opposition **launched no-confidence motion** against PM Imran Khan on **8th March 2022**. Opposition parties organized protests and rallies against PM Imran Khan in different cities in the month of **March 2022**. These rallies also contributed in field related challenges in terms of organizing workshops with councilors and media persons who were already engaged in these activities to witness a dramatic change.

Impact on Project Activities

- Exposure visits in all three districts Lahore, Kasur and Toba Tek Singh are pending permission by respective government department heads.
- Media module and manual development delayed due to Urdu translation
- Technical training to journalists from 4 provincial capitals postponed to the next quarter keeping in view the political uncertainty
- Production of print and online socio-legal journal 'Bayan'
- One-day Khuli Katcheris in district Lahore, Kasur and Toba Tek Singh could not be conducted due to CSO partners' idleness

2) Progress on Outputs and Activities

Analyze the actual data in the Outputs and Activities Reporting Worksheet for all the indicators measuring each output (and their corresponding baseline and target), and then use this analysis as the basis of your narrative assessment of activities and outputs and, where appropriate, on progress on or towards the expected immediate outcomes.

Describe how the project is progressing, determine whether activities are leading to outputs and outcomes as planned, and what changes may be necessary to the activities in the next reporting period

Immediate Outcome 1120: Increased effectiveness of civil society, national and local CSOs in particular those focused on marginalized groups to advocate for gender equality and inclusive democratic governance systems

Output 1121: Evidence-based provincial and national advocacy/campaigns conducted on women's rights with CSOs and alliances

Activity 1121.3: Advocacy campaigns by CSO alliances and district field partners

Progress:

A total of 31 Advocacy Actions have been undertaken by CSO partners with the aim of **promoting women's community level political participation**. These Actions consisted of awareness and

mobilization sessions on CNIC registration; waste management; awareness on the importance of registration for vulnerable groups and promotion of women's representation in Local Government elections.

Activity details are as follows:

- **CNIC Registration:** CSO partners in district Lahore and Kasur organized door to door visits and community awareness sessions to (i) increase awareness on importance of CNIC registration, (ii) distribute user friendly IEC material to guide women on ID card registration, and (iii) identify potential applicants in their areas. So far, a total of **1289 Fe/male community members** have been reached out directly through these actions. These sessions helped to increase their knowledge on basic documents required for CNIC registration and related assistance.
- **Waste Management:** CSO partners and concerned communities identified waste disposal as one of the major challenges faced by them. Involving local authorities and community members in their advocacy work, CSO partners used different activities/actions to raise community awareness on (i) the connection between waste management, community health and environment. In their work with project communities. CSO partners highlighted the link between waste management and a healthy environment and (ii) on efficient and productive ways of waste disposal particularly segregation of organic and inorganic matter for recycling purposes. Advocacy actions comprised: (i) an **awareness walk** by the ALPHA Foundation in Bhasarpura, Kasur, (ii) **formation of a public watch committee** in Sodiwal, Lahore for proper solid waste management under the supervision of the Women Workers Helpline, and (iii) the launch of a **cleanliness drive for overall community well-being** in Ahmed Town, Mominpura, Lahore.
- **Awareness on Social Welfare Registration:** Two actions (one in Tehsil, Pattoki and one in Tehsil Chunian) were undertaken by CSO partner Fikr-e-Farda Welfare Organization (FFWO). These included awareness raising and mobilising transgender persons and persons with disabilities to get registered with the Social Welfare Department for benefits from government schemes for the promotion of their socio-economic well-being.
- **Strengthen Women's Political Participation and Leadership:** In February 2022, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced to hold Local Government Elections (LG) by 29th of May 2022 in 17 districts of Punjab, after which CSO partners geared up to conduct community level seminars, awareness sessions and meetings to highlight the need of women councilors at community level to promote gender equitable governance at grassroots level. These sessions were organized in communities where either no effective representation of women councilors or they have died. These sessions aimed to encourage Fe/male community members to identify potential female candidates for upcoming LG elections. Almost all CSO partners in Toba Tek Singh and a few from Lahore and Kasur organized these sessions with emphasis on the need to promote women in leading positions.

Action Taken

- CSO partners Fikr-e-Farda Welfare Organization undertook an advocacy action on its own behalf in August and awarded **20 community women** on CNIC registration.

Immediate Outcome 1210: Improved ability of women to assume leadership roles in public processes and spaces supported by sensitized male allies in 11 districts/agency

Output 1211: Leadership training provided to community women, female councilors & male allies in 10 districts

Activity 1211.3: Training of active community women, male allies and women councilors

Progress:

The Leadership Training of Trainers (TOT) was organized with CSO partners on **1st to 3rd December, 2021** in Lahore. A total of **21 participants** including a focal person along with of 20 CSO representatives attended this workshop. Designed to enhance participants' leadership capacity as change makers, workshop focus was on gender-based systems; intersecting systematic discriminations; citizen/state relationship, the human rights-based development approach and the importance of advocacy to amplify their voices. The training was based on Shirkat Gah's module, but with minor additions in resource material (in the form of animated videos and role plays) by the Simorgh project team. The varied nature of the group was taken into account. Apart from embedded gender biases and perceptions of caste and religious difference, which were shared by all to a lesser or greater degree, some participants purportedly belonged to orthodox religious groups, care was taken with regards to workshop approach and selection of training exercises to avoid direct confrontation and diffuse resistance.

The following tools were used to build participants' understanding of discriminatory gender based social and economic arrangements:

- i. Diversity and Oppression
 - Power Walk or Cross the Line
 - "I remember"
 - Cage of Oppression
 - Overcoming Prejudices
 - Cycle of Oppression
- ii. Human rights and Development
 - Human Rights
 - Social Contract
 - UDHR and Constitution of Pakistan
- iii. Sex vs. Gender
 - Difference between Sex and Gender
 - Division of Labour
 - Decision Making on the basis of Gender
 - Constructing Gender Tree
- iv. Leadership, politics and electoral processes
 - Qualities of a Leader
 - Introduction to Politics
 - Election
- v. Advocacy
 - Introduction to Advocacy
 - Designing of Advocacy Campaign

Details of the CSO training participants are given below:

District	CSO	Female	Male	Transgender
Lahore	9	5	3	1

Kasur	6	1	5	
Toba Tek Singh	5	2	3	
Total	20	8	11	1

Methodology Used

- Brain Storming
- Group work
- Role Play/group theatre
- Use of audio visual resources
- Follow-up after each session
- Post Test Assessment

Participant Feedback

The workshop ended on a positive note and feedbacks from the participants were collected in the form of comments and posttests. Verbal feedback from the participants was collected at the end of each training day for timely course corrections.

- Participants shared they were satisfied with the overall training and its objective.
- Participants appreciated the material used in the training and requested to share videos used in the training.
- Participants shared that this training helped them to develop clarity on gender concepts, which they haven't received before.
- One of the participants shared that he had never been part of a forum where he was given the opportunity to take active part in discussions on various issues, e.g. gender and sex, caste difference, the parliamentary system, voting trends.
- Mr. Fazal Elahi (CSO representative from Kasur) appreciated the use of Punjabi as medium of communication as it facilitated understanding of various concepts. It also motivated him to further enhance his knowledge on these matters and gave him the confidence to share his ideas with his community and increase their understanding of these issues.
- Everyone shared that they will work in their communities to encourage local leadership to take productive actions.

Leadership Replication Workshops

10 Master Trainers for community Replication Sessions were selected from among participants on the basis of training observation and M&E recommendations based on overall workshop participation, communication skills and conceptual clarity about the Leadership module from district Toba Tek Singh demonstrated almost equal levels of participation while participants from other two district Lahore and Kasur had different potentials as participants and trainers. Most of the male CSO representatives in Lahore skipped training sessions similarly Ms. Irshad who was the only female representative from district Kasur remain absent in most of the training sessions. Due to the unavailability of trainers at some sites, Mr. Jawad Shah (CSO representative from Kasur) was selected to conduct male sessions in district Lahore and Ms. Sumeera (CSO representative from Lahore) was selected to conduct women's

sessions in district Kasur. All the trainers followed the same one-day training agenda developed by Simorgh team based on participants' suggested agendas during the TOT. The one-day replication workshops helped community members to develop their understanding of:

- I. Diversity and Oppression
- II. Gender VS Sex
- III. Human Rights
- IV. Leadership
- V. Advocacy

A total of 16 one-day replications (6 in TTS, 5 in Lahore and 5 in Kasur) sessions with Fe/male participants were conducted in all three districts. District CSO partners mobilized their communities to participate in the training sessions. These are as follows::

Sr. No#	CSO Partner Name	District	Community Area
1.	Women Worker Development Foundation	Lahore	UC-234 (Township)
2.	Anjuman Falah-e-Millat	Lahore	UC – 244 (Gajjumata)
3.	Aika Welfare Foundation	Lahore	UC-24 (Khaliq Nagar)
4.	Azam Welfare Foundation	Lahore	UC – 109 (Shadewal)
5.	Women Worker's Helpline	Lahore	UC-92 (Sodiwal)
6.	Shahmeer Barkat Foundation	Lahore	UC -24(Glaxo Town)
7.	Sahaily Welfare Foundation	Lahore	UC – 253 (Jhulky)
8.	Citizen Social Welfare Foundation	Toba Tek Singh	UC-32 (Seowal)
9.	Happy Life Welfare Organization	Toba Tek Singh	UC-28 (Chak no. 328)
10.	Rasheed Foundation	Toba Tek Singh	UC-20 (Talwandi), UC-21(Qadarabad),UC-19 (Farkis), UC-10 (Nawan Bombay), Tehsil Gojra
11.	Society for Human Development	Toba Tek Singh	UC-25 (Dullam 325)
12.	Ravi Foundation	Toba Tek Singh	UC-51 (Chak No.296)
13.	Fikr-e-Farda Welfare Organization	Kasur	UC-94 (Thathi Uttar)
14.	Pakistan Organization for Sustainable Participatory Development	Kasur	UC-59 (Jamsheed Khurd), UC 68 (Gillan Wala)
15.	ALPHA Foundation	Kasur	UC-08 (Bhasarpura)
16.	Education Welfare Society	Kasur	UC-32 (Hussain Khanwala)
17.	Ittehad Foundation	Kasur	UC-11 (Purana Lari Ada)
18.	Al Sufa Welfare Trust	Kasur	UC - 17 (Raja Jang)
19.	Bulleh Shah Welfare Foundation	Kasur	UC - 14 (Hardosahari)

A total of 490 Fe/male and transgender trained through Leadership one-day workshops. Breakdown of training participants is given below:

Sex Disaggregated Data

Sr. No#	District	Female	Male	Transgender	Total
1.	Toba Tek Singh	86	111	1	198
2.	Lahore	85	57	2	144
3.	Kasur	103	66	0	169
Grand Total		274	234	3	511

Group Specific Data

Sr. No #	District	Minority			Councilors/Political Leader	Youth	Community Members	Persons with Disability	Total
		Community	Disability	Youth					
1.	Kasur	0			07	83	78	1	169
2.	Lahore	02		03	36	17	86	0	144
3.	Toba Tek Singh	69	04	19	05	25	76		198
Grand Total		71	04	22	48	125	241	0	511

Methodology

The overall training methodology used by the trainers was almost the same as that used in the Leadership TOT. Using the interactive approach, trainers engaged participant attention through group exercises, audio visual aids and discussions. These comprised:

- Brain storming
- Group work
- Follow-up after each session
- Screening of animated videos
- Posttest/training feedback

Participants' Feedbacks/Suggestions

A majority of the training participants seemed satisfied with the knowledge shared in the trainings. Participants appreciated the training topics and methodology that helped them to develop their clarity on different sociopolitical issues. Many of the participants shared that it was the first time they came to know about the difference between gender and sex. They appreciated the short videos and quickly picked the messages delivered by these videos. Most of the participants – especially female participants shared that training helped them to develop the concept of self-identity and importance of their role in society.

- Female community members in Kasur requested to conduct these trainings in their villages as

these trainings helped them to understand Fe/male roles in the society.

- Minority Chairman in Toba Tek Singh suggested conducting this training with teachers, religious and local political leaders who play a major role in the development of the society.
- Female participants in Lahore requested to conduct small community based sessions to provide socio-legal awareness to them.

Challenges

Leadership training workshops have been carried out with their own set of challenges. Despite limited time and pressurized conditions, the project team managed to conduct 16 training workshops within 3 weeks (8th – 24th December, 2021). These training workshops also ‘lessons learnt’ for the project team and helped to identify potential stakeholders for upcoming project activities. The project team faced the following challenges in conducting the training workshops:

- Some of the participants were illiterate and it was difficult for trainers to involve them in group work.
- A few of non-serious participants in almost all training sessions undermined the training environment and impacted negatively on discussions.
- A majority of the participants did not arrive on time. This is a common practice that caused delay in starting the training session and disrupted proceedings for those who arrived on time.
- Religious arguments and intolerance remained a major challenge for the project team in most of the workshops.
- Religious prejudices and exchange of hate speech against women during male training session in Gojra: – this was extremely challenging for the trainer and project team to keep participant focus on around training topics.

Output 1212: Women provided opportunities for self- expression and exercising leadership skills

Activity 1212.2: Facilitation of opportunities for self-expression through open mics

Progress:

A total of five open mic session has been conducted this year in district Lahore, Kasur and Toba Tek Singh. Open Mic sessions organized with the aim to engage community women in a conversation about bodily anatomy, integrity and the right to decide under the theme **Female Participation in Decision Making**. These sessions proved as a way to record diverse range of perspectives to raise a collective voice. These sessions connect women to recognize the struggle every one of them face in their life.

Through these sessions women got opportunity and shared the following issues:

- Domestic violence incidents** – women are subjected to violence by their counterparts
- Double burden of women’s work** – in rural and lower income communities women are responsible for both income generation and household responsibilities
- Practice of early age marriages** – poverty and cultural norms contribute to this practice
- Discouragement of female education** – girls are not allowed to get higher education
- Barriers to political participation** – not allowed to cast vote by their choice or participate as community representative to address local issues
- Intersectional discrimination** – discrimination faced by women on the basis of caste and religion
- Poverty** – discourages women’s participation in decision making

Suggestions/Feedback

Community females actively participated in these sessions and also provided their suggestions and feedbacks, those are given below:

- CSO representatives suggested that these sessions will help to broaden the mindset of community women
- Participation of youth should be encouraged in these sessions
- Participation of educated or literate community women will be useful for other community women afterwards

Challenges

- Community women's participation at some places discouraged by the families due to their household responsibilities
- Poor report writing skills and late submissions of reports by CSO partners

Immediate Outcome 1220: Strengthened capacity of female citizens, students and women's organizations to articulate feminist change agenda for inclusive democracy in Pakistan

Output 1221: Feminist understanding & knowledge production facilitated

Activity 1221.3: Production of print and online socio-legal journal 'Bayan' featuring critical essays on laws, gender based issues and human and democratic rights for knowledge building, awareness raising and generating wider public debate

Progress:

As discussed in the Bayan Steering Committee meeting in Q1, it was decided for strategic reasons to delay the launch of the 1st volume of Bayan titled "*Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression*" and consider launching the 2nd volume first but work on all three volumes together. The Bayan Advisory Board Meeting held virtually discussed some of the papers and possible issues and also suggested various on-line events to generate public debate from a feminist perspective on laws and judicial decision-making. Progress on volumes:

Volume I: Freedom of Speech and Expression set to be printed with minor editing

Volume II: Women's Participation in Public Political Life and Inclusive Democracy- Five papers of the second edition received and being reviewed.

Volume III: The Third World Democracy and Decentralization in the post COVID World - work underway.

Challenges

Immediate Outcome 1310: Increased gender-equitable access of grassroots women to gender responsive duty bearers and service providers in 11 districts

Output 1311: Formation and operationalization of District/Agency specific Multi-stakeholder Area Support Networks bringing together duty-bearers, CSOs, and service providers with women grassroots leaders

Activity 1311.1: Creation of district specific referral directories based on mapping of existing service providers and potential resource person

Progress:

Shirkat Gah is directly responsible to produce these referral directories based on mapping of existing GBV services available at project sites. Simorgh helped Shirkat Gah in collecting the field data and mapping of GBV services in district Kasur and Toba Tek Singh. District Focal Persons and CSO partners identified government, semi-government and private service providers to add their information in district referral directories. Collected data has been submitted to Shirkat Gah head office Lahore.

Challenges

- CSO partners and Focal Persons complained of the facilitation cost for data collection as they had to utilize their own resources for this purpose
- Government departments and other private service providers were reluctant to share their personal information and made excuses to delay the data collection process

Activity 1311.3: Regular meeting of ASNs

Progress:

During this project year a total of eight ASN meetings were conducted in project districts, three in Lahore; three in Kasur and two in Toba Tek Singh. Due to time and budget constraints ASN meetings in last quarter have been shifted to next year's work-plan. These meetings focused on highlighting of new issues and facilitation of the issues discussed in previous meetings. Transgender activists also joined the ASN meetings in Lahore and Toba Tek Singh this year. Unfortunately, the facilitation by the government departments on most of the community issues remained less than desirable. However, these meetings had the active participation of community women/ex-councilors, CSO representatives, govt. officials, lawyers and media persons. Overall, these meetings were productive in terms of facilitating meeting participants on raised issues or concerns.

Area Support Network Meeting, Lahore

Three ASN meetings conducted in district Lahore this year on 2nd June, 28th September, and 28th December, 2021 respectively. Participants raised issues and shared the updates of the work they had done after each ASN meeting. Participants joined the discussions and there was a great input from their respective departments. It helped in broadening the Area Support Network around new initiatives. These meetings filled everyone with more spirit to do more in their communities. Second, ASN meeting also turned out challenging as most of the govt. officials did not participate to facilitate on issues included in the meeting agenda. Officials from Social Welfare Department, Lahore Development Authority (LDA), Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA), Metropolitan Corporation and Police despite their commitment did not participate in the ASN meetings. However, members took an active part in the proceedings and provided follow-ups and developed new strategies to work on the un-addressed issues highlighted in the meetings. On the other hand, the officials from the District Election Commission, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) and Health Department made ASNs productive through providing direct facilitation in concerned matters.

Issues Discussed

- CNIC Registration** – Facilitation on CNIC registration was prioritized by ASN participants in all forum meetings. Officials from **NADRA and District Election Commission** provided guidance on policy additions and procedures for CNIC registration. ASN members actively worked in their communities for CNIC registration throughout the year, which also contributed to the voter registration process. Overall 11 MRVs arranged by ASN members in their communities out of which six MRVs directly facilitated by Mr. Zeshan (NADRA Official).
- Health Services** – Officials from Health Department remained part of almost all ASN meetings this year and provided updates on Health Card, briefed on the public health care structure to get proper facilitation through free medical camps. Participants also shared and highlighted the issues related to functioning of Health Card, poor management and mistreatment by hospital staff and unavailability of free treatment for underprivileged. On which Health Consultant Mr.

Anwar also guide them on relevant complaint and facilitation processes and emphasized on the need to get proper information regarding government services in the health sector – this helped CSO partners to move their applications to get free medical camp services in their communities.

- iii. **Waste Management** – LWMC officials actively participated in all ASN meetings this year and provided their assistance to the forum members on complaint and facilitation process.
- iv. **Plantation Drives** – Importance of undertaking plantation drives to promote a healthy environment in project target communities discussed. ASN participants decided to identify plantation areas involving their communities and to seek support from PHA for plantation drives in their areas. Unfortunately, PHA officials did not participate in the ASN meeting for direct assistance, however, 9 ASN members worked on this agenda and submitted applications to the PHA head office to get facilitation in this regards. PHA officials moved these applications to zonal offices, where officials denied providing plants, giving an excuse of unavailability of plants in their stock.
- v. **Awareness on COVID Vaccine** – In the first ASN meeting this year it was decided by ASN members that every one of them would make their communities aware of the importance of Corona vaccine and play an effective role in controlling its spread. Later, CSO partners and councilors worked actively in their areas in this regard and reported their actions to project team.
- vi. **Ehsas Programme** – Briefing on Ehsas Kafalat programme was also added into the third ASN agenda. Participants were briefed on the fund transfer process and warned from scammers. Forum members reported fund transfer issues and asked for assistance in dealing with such issues.
- vii. **Community Issues** – Different community issues, rehabilitation of community parks, the problem of insufficient land for community grave yards, lack of street lights, land registration issues and increasing incidents of police harassment in the name of security checks were raised and highlighted to get assistance on these matters through relevant departments. CSO representatives also include these issues in their Social Action Plans and started to take follow-ups from the relevant departments.

Area Support Networking Meeting, Kasur

Three Area Support Network meetings held this year in district Kasur on 4th June, 30th September and 30th December, 2021 respectively. These meetings facilitated by Social Welfare Department, District Election Commission and National Commission for Human Development in their offices. These meetings proved to be productive in terms of facilitation process and briefing by the government departments. In addition to this, participants got access to various departments and were eager to work on different issues so these were useful for them in these terms. These meetings also identified new challenges to make ASNs more responsive at the district level.

Issues Discussed

- i. **CNIC Registration** – Issues related to CNIC registrations and facilitation process discussed in detail in the first ASN meeting this year. Women councilors seemed active in arranging MRVs in their communities while CSO partners requested NADRA officials to provide MRVs in their communities. NADRA officials did not provide any satisfactory response on submitted applications despite various follow-ups and attended only one ASN meeting this year. In response, Fempower team along with CSO partners visited NADRA office Kasur on **30th December** to investigate the delay. After a short meeting with the officials they were convinced to provide MRVs at three project locations. Overall, four MRVs facilitated through ASN Kasur this year.

- ii. **COVID 19 Vaccination** – Officials in the first ASN meeting encouraged forum members to aware and mobilize their communities to get vaccinated against Corona and provide their services in this regard. In response to this, CSO partners worked on this component and report to Fempower project team.
- iii. **Skill Training Facilitation** – This agenda point added into a first ASN meeting last year by CSO partners on the provision of free skill trainings to community females. In response to this, Social Welfare Department offered free courses and monthly travel stipend to interested candidates. Unfortunately, none of CSO partners mobilize potential candidates for skill trainings and ended the discussion by providing a number of excuses.
- iv. **Social Welfare Schemes** – Officials from Social Welfare Department briefed on Bahimat Buzurg, Humqadam, Ehas Kafalat and Ration Programme in almost all ASN meetings. CSO partners and women councilors also collect information on Zakat funds to avail funds for treatment and community welfare purpose. Officials provided detailed information on registration and application process in detail. CSO partners and councilors were also facilitated by Mr. Akbar Raza (Deputy District Officer) to proceed their fund requests.
- v. **Assistance on Gender Based Violence Cases** – In first and second ASN meetings GBV response services available in district discussed. In the first ASN meeting this year, Manager Dar-ul-Aman gave all the necessary information about the services that Dar-ul-Aman (DUA) offers to the victims of violence. Later, she also facilitated the exposure visit to DUA on **30th June 2021** and assured to provide any assistance in this regard in future. In second ASN meeting a CSO partner also briefed participants on GBV coping mechanisms. Details on **Safe City project in Kasur city and Punjab Women' helpline 1043** provided for any assistance related to GBV cases.
- vi. **Clean and Green Campaign Initiatives** – PTI information Secretary Kasur participated in last two ASN meetings to provide information on plantation and cleanliness drives under Clean and Green campaign. He also briefed on the plantation and cleanliness initiatives and facilitation of plants through the Forest Department's subsidized nurseries.
- vii. **Sanitation and Waste Disposal** – ASN members raised issues of insufficient waste disposal sites, lack of sanitary workers, unavailability of street lights to Municipal Committee official in second ASN to get department's response on these issues. ASN members were also guided on complaint procedures and also shared personal numbers in case of any relevant assistance.
- viii. **Health Services** – Officials from Health Department participated in two ASN meetings this year and provided assistance on the health department's procedures. ASN participants shared issues of inadequate dispensary timings, unavailability of BHU, unavailability of medicines at BHUs and facility of free medical camps for far flung communities.
- ix. **Adult Literacy** – Fourth ASN meeting facilitated by the National Commission on Human Development (NCHD) in its office. NCHD officials briefed on adult literacy programme and provided information on working of adult literacy centers and registration of religious education institutes around the district.

Area Support Network Meeting, TTS

Two ASN meetings organized at the District Headquarter Hospital, Toba Tek Singh on 25th August and 16th December, 2021. ASN participants from all over the district actively participated in these meetings. These meetings enabled the community leaders to take up their issues from their communities and amplify their voices at the district forum. The meeting participants came up after working on the meeting agenda and put forward the demands to be undertaken by relevant government departments. Unfortunately, officials from Health and District Election Commission did not participate in these meetings. However, other forum members, including CSO partners, media personnel, chairman, women

councilors and govt. officials participated wholeheartedly and discussed issues to bring out solutions.

Issues Discussed

- i. Tree Plantation** – Forest department official participated in both ASN meetings and briefed on plantation drives under “Plant for Pakistan Campaign”. Participants took keen interest in plantation drives and also highlighted relevant concerns such as promotion of native plants, protection of bird habitats and construction of greenbelts and public parks. On request of ASN participants free plants were also provided by the forest department to encourage tree plantation drives.
- ii. Health Facilities** – No official from health department participated in any of the ASN meetings this year. However, CSO partner Mr. Arif Janbaz who is also an active PTI leader at district level provided a briefing on the Health Card programme in both ASN meetings and encouraged participants to raise awareness on community level to avail this facility. Participants also raised their concerns about Covid vaccination side effects, unavailability of medicines at local BHUs and distant located BHU in Sara village Gojra.
- iii. Water and Sanitation** – Municipal Committee officials participated in ASN meetings on a regular basis and provided assistance to deal with water and sanitation problems faced by different project communities. ASN participants also shared issues of inadequate cleaning services, salaries of sanitary workers, proper construction of sewerage and solings, illegal garbage dumping and killing of stray dogs with the officials to undertake proper action.
- iv. CNIC Registration** – NADRA officials for the first time participated in the second ASN meeting this year. Participants raised issues related to CNIC documentation, MRV facilitation and misconduct by NADRA officials. NADRA officials briefed on CNIC documentation and assured their assistance regarding MRV facilitation in project communities.
- v. Social Security Programmes** – Officials of Social Welfare department participated in second ASN meeting and provided details of social security programmes running under the department. CSO partners also suggested the officials to make them part of their policy intervention to benefit deserving community members.
- vi. Law and Enforcement Issues** – There was no official from the police department in any of the ASN meetings. However, participants shared related issues, i.e. proper security of public places, illegal selling of poisonous alcohol and security of the transgender community to get assistance in future.

Challenges:

- Since the inception of the ASN, its meetings had been facilitated by the Social Welfare Department Kasur. In the fourth meeting, it was observed that Mr. Akbar Raza tried to hijack the meeting. He tried to jump in and take over every discussion, with utter disregard for the officials who were present and willing to explain matters concerning their departments to the participants.
- Participation of government officials to provide their facilitation on community issues remained challenging.
- Female representation in ASN Kasur meetings remained lesser than their male counterparts as majority of the CSO heads are male and do not promote female representation
- Unpleasant weather/dense fog made it difficult for participants to travel to reach the second ASN TTS meeting held in December 2021.
- Late arrivals in the third ASN meeting Lahore interrupted the meeting proceedings and created a disturbance to precede the meeting agenda.

- Another major challenge was to tackle the political bias of some participants in third ASN, which was disrupting the meeting, overall.
- In the ASN Lahore meetings, the conduct of some members was also inappropriate (talking in between a briefing, cutting off other participants, speaking loud, cross-questioning) so this turned out to be a challenge for the moderator of the meeting.
- Availability of a reasonable meeting venue was a bit challenging for the project team in district Kasur.
- Limited funds in this budget head also created issues to organize ASN meetings at reasonable venues.

Actions Taken

Toba Tek Singh

- i. Mr. Sultan (CSO representative) undertook an action against garbage dumps and cleaned massive garbage from the area of Mubarkabad with the help of Deputy Commissioner Mr. Umer Javaid which benefited almost 40 households in the area.
- ii. Mr. Sultan (CSO representative) conducted a tree plantation campaign around the territory of brick-kiln and planted more than 100 trees in the community of Chak J.B 328.
- iii. Mr. Arif Janbaz ran a campaign on awareness regarding corona safety precautions to 150 community members in Toba Tek Singh.
- iv. Mr. Arif Janbaz took an action against price control of basic food items on Utility store
- v. Ms. Shumaila, Rafia and Tahira took an action against unscheduled load shedding in Mubarkabad Colony Toba Tek Singh with the help of PTI Chairman and benefited 350 households of the area.
- vi. Ms. Shumaila, Samina and Mr. Naeem from SHD planted 300 trees in Chak 325 J.B Toba Tek Singh through involving 75 households of the area.
- vii. Ms. Sajda Saleem, Zubaida and Suraia Yaqoob from SHD with the help of the Municipal committee removed animal remains from Mubarkabad colony and facilitated 300 households of the area.
- viii. Mr. Sultan Sidhu along with Ali Haider, M. Ameen and Shabir Ahmed took an action against contaminated drinking water in Housing Colony, TTS and complained to the Municipal Committee to provide clean drinking water. His initiative helped to facilitate 1000 people in the area.
- ix. Mr. Sultan Sidhu took action against waste heaps around the Government Girls School No. 1 TTS and complained to Tehsil Municipal In-charge M. Shabir who helped to clear the waste heap and made the road clear for the students and pedestrians in the area.
- x. Ravi Foundation planted 70 plants at different community sites in UC 31
- xi. Ms. Sehrish planted 22 plants in Chak 223, UC 32, Toba Tek Singh
- xii. Ms. Ruqaiya (ex-councilor) planted 20 plants in UC 75, Shorkot

Lahore

- xiii. Ms. Noreen (WPF member) got the community park Nishtar Block, Iqbal Town cleaned from the garbage with the help of LWMC sanitary workers.
- xiv. Ms. Shamim (woman councilor) got the community park cleaned of Township Block 4 cleaned from the garbage with the help of LWMC workers UC-234.
- xv. Ms. Shamim arranged a Mobile Registration Van (MRV) in her area UC-234 and helped 87 Fe/male (F-55/M-32) community members to get their CNICs
- xvi. Ms. Zakia arranged a cleanliness drive in her area Township C-2 and got garbage cleaned

- with the help of LWMC workers UC-236.
- xvii. Mr. Khalid arranged a cleanliness drive with the help of LWMC sanitary workers in his area Kahn Nu, on the occasion of Christmas
 - xviii. Ms. Saba Naz organized an MRV in Marghazar Colony, UC 92 to facilitate community members 56 Fe/males (F-37/M-19) to get their CNIC cards.
 - xix. Ms. Zakia took the action of facilitating 4 households in getting their children's (5 girls, 4 boys) B-Forms made.
 - xx. Ms. Zakia helped two community members Mr. Allah Rakha and Ms. Bashiran in getting their CNIC made.
 - xxi. Ms. Zakia arranged a Mobile Vaccination Unit (MVU) in the area of Green Town C-2 (UC 236) and facilitated COVID-19 vaccinations of a total of 80 (35/45) Fe/male community members.
 - xxii. WWDF team members resolved a case of gender-based violence and helped the victim of domestic abuse Ms. Naila in initiating her divorce with the help of a legal advisor, Mr. Waraich.
 - xxiii. WWDF facilitated 75 women in getting their health cards with the assistance of Saleem Gill WWDF facilitated 22 women in getting funds of 14000/- rupees from the Ehsas Program.

Kasur

- xxiv. Mr. Rana M. Aslam (CSO representative Al-Sufa Welfare Trust) with the facilitation of Mr. Akbar Raza (Deputy Director Social Welfare) helped 13 Fe/males (F-10/M-3) in MC 17, Rajajhang to get their monthly stipends under Bahimat Buzurg Programme.
- xxv. Mr. Rana M. Aslam helped 14 females in MC 17, Rajajhang to get stipends under Ehsas Kafalat programme.
- xxvi. Al-Sufa Welfare Trust got the road repaired and carpeted which was damaged because of water disposal, with the help of the Chairman of the area.
- xxvii. Al-Sufa Welfare Trust got a street carpeted and repaired with the assistance of local laborers which was damaged by the construction work for gas connections.
- xxviii. Mr. Amjid, representing Fikre Farda Welfare Organization planted 273 plants on plot no. 26 with the assistance of the forestry department.
- xxix. FFWO helped 13 differently abled persons to get their disability certificates from the Tehsil Social Welfare Department, Kasur.
- xxx. FFWO arranged medicine for 1563 community members in Jumber with the help of THQ Pattoki.
- xxxi. FFWO organized an awareness session with 50 Fe/male (35/15) on Covid-19 vaccination in Thatthi Uttar, UC 94.
- xxxii. FFWO organized an awareness session with teachers and students in a school Thatthi Uttar, UC 94 and made them aware of Covid-19 precautions.
- xxxiii. FFWO organized an MRV in Thatthi Uttar, UC 94 and helped 89 Fe/male (59/30) males to get their ID cards.
- xxxiv. POSPaD organized MRV in Jamsheer Khurd, UC 59 and facilitated 98 females to their CNICs
- xxxv. POSPaD organized a cleanliness drive in Jamsheer Khurd, UC 59 with the help of Municipal Committee
- xxxvi. Ittehad Foundation organized MRV in UC 11 and facilitated 76 Fe/male (67/9) to get their CNICs.
- xxxvii. Ittehad Foundation (IF) with the help of the City Traffic Police Kasur, arranged a traffic Police Warden in the area of Model Bazar UC 11 to control the traffic flow.
- xxxviii. IF organized the cleanliness drive in the area Umer Farooq Colony, UC 11 with the help of Municipal Committee.

Output 1312: Training provided on Personal Status Laws , GBV, education and Health services to grassroots women and male allies in 11 districts

Activity 1312.1: Trainings on basic citizenship documents, GBV, education and health services

Progress:

Initially designed 3 three-day workshops on Personal status law, GBV and health issues later divided into 18 one-day workshops given the unavailability of trainers at the same time. A total of 17 one-day training sessions on personal laws, sexual and reproductive health and online safety and cyber harassment have been conducted in all three districts with **496 Fe/male participants** through separate training workshops. These trainings aimed to increase knowledge of rights, basic documentation needed to access rights and services, and capacity to deal with personal health issues as an individual. These trainings conducted by expert trainers, selected on the basis of their expert skills or knowledge in a particular field. Mr. Sohail Waraich – legal expert from Shirkagah, Dr. Amjad Ramzan, Dr. Sadaf Amjad and Dr. Faiza Rabani – Master Trainers from the Population Welfare Department, Punjab and Ms. Nighat Dad, Ms. Iram – legal expert, Ms. Shumaila – Legal expert, Ms. Huma and Mr. Nouman – IT expert from Digital Right’s Foundation (DRF) delivered these training sessions. These trainings carried out in Urdu and Punjabi language with the help of Powerpoint presentations to keep the training material understandable for local community members.

Trainings on Personal Status Laws:

These training sessions aimed to build capacities of workshop participants (union councilors, council secretaries, nikah khuwan) on laws and practices in response to the prevalent Gender Based Violence cases. The workshops conducted between **22nd February to 29th March 2022** in district Lahore, Kasur and Toba Tek Singh. The details with all matters relating to Christian and Muslim marriage, including registration, polygamy, divorce, maintenance and other relevant processes for physical and sexual violence given to the participants. During these training sessions **137 booklets** and brochures on family laws produced by Shirkatgah were also distributed among training participants. The details of participants are given below:

Sr No.	District	Female	Male	Transgender	Minority	Disable	Total
1.	Lahore	24	-	-	2	-	24
2.	Kasur	27	29	-	1	-	56
3.	Toba Tek Singh	32	25	-	23	-	57
Total		83	54	0	25	0	137

Sexual and Reproductive Health Sessions:

Considering sexual and reproductive health a universal human right and important to every individual thought their lifespan – six one-day training sessions have been carried out with Fe/male participants. The training sessions conducted between **7th to 28th March 2022** in all three districts Lahore, Kasur and Toba Tek Singh. The workshops focused to build capacities of health professionals (LHVs, LHWs, LSF, private health practitioners and field workers) to incorporate sexual and reproductive rights in their professional practices. These trainings aimed to increase the knowledge base of Fe/male participants (esp. health staff, CSO representatives and teachers) on Fe/male sexual and reproductive health and its linkages to gender equality. During these workshops IEC material (brochures and booklets) on adolescent, family planning methods pre-post natal health developed by Simorgh in a previous project

were also **distributed among the 105 female** training participants. The details of the participants are given below:

Sr No.	District	Female	Male	Transgender	Minority	Disable	Total
1.	Lahore	26	25	-	8	1	51
2.	Kasur	40	36	-	-	1	76
3.	Toba Tek Singh	39	22	-	13	-	61
Total		105	83	0	21	2	188

Digital Security Workshops:

These trainings focused on issues of online safety and digital rights awareness for communities. The trainings were carried out between **16th to 25th March 2022** in Lahore, Kasur and Toba Tek Singh. Two workshops were conducted per district for women and men respectively. The workshops were delivered by two/three DRF team members based on their expertise along the lines of digital security, law and gender sensitization. During these training sessions DRF **contributed 170 sets of awareness material** in the form of printed brochures, guidebooks and posters on issues of online harassment, digital security and online laws to participants. The details of participants are given below:

Sr No.	District	Female	Male	Transgender	Minority	Disable	Total
1.	Lahore	26	28	-	5	-	54
2.	Kasur	29	25	-	2	1	54
3.	Toba Tek Singh	32	30	-	25	-	62
Total		87	83	0	32	1	170

Feedback/Suggestions

- Female participants showed their keen interest in Nikahnama form and most of them saw it the first time.
- The whole briefing on Nikahnama proved to be beneficial for the participants who were not yet married.
- Male participants appreciated the briefing on sexual violence laws and legal procedures of reporting gender base violence cases.
- The Christian participants also appreciated the trainer for explaining the traditional as well as legal Christian family laws.
- Fe/male participants appreciated the information shared in the health sessions and emphasized to conduct these sessions on a regular basis with other community members in all three districts.
- Fe/male participants suggested that one-day training session on online safety was not enough for them and suggested to conduct separate one-day sessions on online harassment, cyber crime and digital security techniques.

Challenges

- The Fempower team did not face any challenge except venue identification due to PSL matches and wedding season.

- Some participants had to leave early and made disturbances for the other participants/facilitator.
- A major challenge was the lack of mobilization by some CSOs which resulted in lack of potential participants in the trainings.
- Male Health sessions in Lahore and Toba Tek Singh brought a challenge of discussion among the participants for whom this topic was new and some participants were hesitant in asking questions.
- The lack of male health professionals in the health sessions was also a challenge.
- The lack of knowledge among the female participants in the legal sessions also came as a challenge as they were aware about the issues but not the legal procedures so they were guided accordingly.
- Overall female participants' response in these training sessions was very positive while male participants made it slightly challenging for the trainers to maintain the workshop decorum.

Immediate Outcome 1320: Strengthened capacity of local government, especially women, councilors to effectively fulfill their mandate and undertake gender responsive actions in 11 districts

Output 1322: Technical assistance provided for the operationalization of Women's Forums/Councilor Caucuses to women including councilors in 10 districts

Activity 1322.2: Regular activities/ meetings of Women's Forums

Progress:

Five Forum meetings and two follow-up visits have been conducted during this reporting year. During the initial forum meetings and follow-ups with the members of the Women's Political Forum (WPF) Lahore and TTS participants seemed enthusiastic about working on their plans. On the other hand, members of WPF Kasur remained slow in undertaking their plans and continued to leave WPF one after another to gang up with Ms. Safia (President District Kasur – PMLN) who looks upon the WPF in the light of political rival that detracts from her importance. However, other WPF members Kasur put up their efforts to make the WPF functional at the district level and by the end of the year they have undertaken a sufficient number of initiatives. While TTS group members did not work well and asked for financial support to undertake initiatives in their areas. In contrary to these, Lahore WPF members worked on target plans and increased its effectiveness.

Women's Political Forum, Lahore

Two regular meetings and one follow-up have been conducted with the members of WPF Lahore in the third project year. Two regular meetings organized on **29th October 2021** and **4th March 2022** subsequently to set up working agendas and to add up new members to expand the forum outreach. One follow-up aimed to track the progress of members of the Women's Political Forum on their development plans carried out on **8th June 2021**. A total of 15 women including an ex-councilors, CSO members and LHVs are working as members of WPF Lahore on following development plans in their areas:

- i) **Waste Disposal** – undertake actions regarding waste disposal and collection
- ii) **Violence against Women and Children** – assistance to violence cases
- iii) **Plantation Drives** – restoration of parks and greenbelts
- iv) **Voter registration** – resolve female voter registration issues

Women's Political Forum, Kasur

One follow-up on **30th June 2021** and two WPF forum meetings on **27th October 2021** and **3rd March 2022** have been carried out in district Kasur. The main purpose of these meetings was to involve new potential Forum members in place of previous ones who left the group for their personal reasons and did not show any progress. A total of nine women, including councilors, LHWs and social workers are working in the forum. These women were briefed on the objectives of the Women's Political Forum to increase their political participation and build their strengths as an immediate resource for community women. The identified development plans are:

- i. **Waste Disposal** – issues of overflowing sewers and waste collection
- ii. **Facilitation on Social Protection Schemes** – provision of Zakat and Bahimat Buzurg funds
- iii. **Violence against Women and Children** – to raise awareness and response on GBV issues
- iv. **Development of Community Skill Centre** – establish a community based skill center
- v. **Voter Registration** – registration of fresh female voters

Women's Political Forum, Toba Tek Singh

Only one WPF meeting on **1st September 2021** has been carried out in district Toba Tek Singh. This meeting helped to operationalize the forum at district level – where eleven women from all over the district participated. These women participated actively and developed their plans to work in their communities. The main objective of the meeting was to enhance the social and political capacities of these women so that together they participate more actively in local politics. Unfortunately, on taking follow-ups after three months of the meeting most of the forum members did not show any progress on their plans and made excuses. However, they suggested project team to organize forum meeting after Eid al-Fitr to discuss strategies those can help them to undertake actions on their plans. The decided plans are given below:

- i. **Improvement of Medical Facilities** – through bringing the access of the residents to the BHU services
- ii. **Facilities under Social Safety Net** – certification of disable persons, provision of Zakat funds and sewing machines
- iii. **Improvement of Economic Opportunities** – skill training and the provision of economic opportunities
- iv. **CNIC Facilitation** – facilitate CNIC and Birth registrations
- v. **Improvement of Roads and Sewerage** – repair of broken roads and sewers
- vi. **Promotion of Health Environment** – initiating garbage cleaning and plantation drives
- vii. **Conflict Resolution** – resolve the personal, financial, political and religious disputes

Challenges

- **Funds Expectation:** It was observed that CSO representatives and councilors associate development work with the funds. In this regard, most of the councilors and CSOs share their experience of working with donors who paid them for their actions and expect to get some reward in form on funds.
- **Political Influence and power play:** While forming new WPF group in district Kasur it has been observed that Ms. Safia the previous WPF member tried to take advantage of her position over other district councilors and tried to convince them to not to participate in WPF activities unless she gives her approval.
- **Social Barriers:** Most of the WPF members in TTS and a few in Lahore and Kasur provided household responsibilities as an excuse for their limited political participation which also impacts their integrity.

Actions Taken:

Lahore

- i. Ms. Shameem arranged cleanliness drives in UC 234, township, district Lahore.
- ii. Ms. Zakia reported that she got six streets of her area clean from garbage with the help of LWMC staff.
- iii. Ms. Abida, and Aliya filed an application for area cleanliness and got facilitation of LWMC Area Supervisor Mr. Irfan (ASN member) to lift the garbage heaps in UC 227.
- iv. Ms. Razia forwarded the application to the area Chairman Mr. Ishtiaq for the waste collection in UC 246.
- v. Ms. Abida, and Ms. Razia helped their community by getting assistance from Sui Gas department in UC 227 and 246 for the repair of gas pipelines.
- vi. Ms. Abida reported a GBV case that she solved with the help of AGHS to a filed divorce case to help a female victim Ms. Kiran in UC 227.
- vii. Ms. Abida with the help of her community members addressed a physical violence case of Samda B.B in UC 227. They rescued GBV victim and got her admitted to the Bali Memorial Trust and filed a case against the perpetrators. She was also supported with financial aid, arranged by Abida.
- viii. Ms. Abida provided awareness on family laws and GBV coping methods to 22 females in UC 227.
- ix. Ms. Abida provided awareness to 55 teachers, students and parents in Ghazli Public School on plantation drives and planted 8 plants in this session
- x. Ms. Zakia helped 4 factory workers to get their salaries with the help of Mr. Hafiz Naeem (Incharge Income Tax Office)
- xi. Ms. Zakia while working on her development plan came to know the issue of unreleased salaries of sanitary works of her area and helped 3 sanitary workers to get their salaries
- xii. Ms. Zakia referred two outsiders to the Panahgah Thokkar for stay facility , but unfortunately they did not help them and later she accommodated them in a local mosque of her area
- xiii. Ms. Zakia planted 65 plants in two community parks of her area UC 236
- xiv. Ms. Zakia solved a GBV case in her area and helped a couple through reconciliation
- xv. Ms. Shameem got a street light installed at the entry of the Blok-4 community park, Township (UC-234) and planted 50 Rose plants in the park.
- xvi. Ms. Shameen after taking charge of UC office with the help of the LWMC staff cleared the Township Nullah cleaned from the garbage heaps. She also undertook regular cleaning of a park and streets of her area.
- xvii. Ms. Razia Chohan got the streets cleaned in Khaliq Nagar (UC-245). A total of 11 streets cleaned from the garbage with the help of UC Chairman Mr. Ishtiaq. The cleanliness drive benefited more than 100 households.
- xviii. Ms. Razia Chuhan undertook a plantation drive in Khaliq Nagar (UC-245) and planted 50 plants in the area.
- xix. Ms. Rakshanda got the garbage cleaned and fixed new sewerage of a street in her area Canal Park (UC 200) which benefited 25 households.
- xx. Ms. Saba Naz with the help of the UC Chairman and Coordinator took the initiative and got done installation of sewer lines in 4 streets of residential area to connect the sewerage system with the main sewerage branch in UC 109, Shadewal.
- xxi. Ms. Abida arranged an awareness session on good/bad touch with 12 female students and 10 teachers of Ghazali Public School and Salaar Academy.

- xxii. Ms. Abida and Ms. Aliya got six streets cleaned from garbage and got the sewerage lines cleaned with the assistance of LWMC official, Mr. Irfan in the area of Kot Lakhpat, UC 227.
 - xxiii. Ms. Abida installed a garbage container for a proper disposal of waste in UC 227, Lahore with the help of Area Incharge Mr. Irfan.
 - xxiv. Ms. Zakia with the community contribution arranged a cleanliness drive in 5 streets of block-5, C-2, which benefited a total of 250 households in the area.
 - xxv. Ms. Zakia took the initiative of conducting cleanliness campaign from Meer Chowk to Taj Chowk as a counselor in the area of Green Town (UC-236) which benefitted almost 10,000 people and the passerby.
 - xxvi. Ms. Razia and Ms. Azra resolved the case of Khula and helped a woman in getting her child's custody.
 - xxvii. Ms. Razia and Ms. Azra resolved a gender-based violence case and mediated the issues between the woman and her in-laws.
 - xxviii. Ms. Hadia helped a woman victim of violence in Bilal ganj, Lahore to get Khula through assisting her in the documentation process.
- Kasur**
- xxix. Ms. Parveen facilitated a GBV case in her area and helped a woman to file a maintenance case against her husband.
 - xxx. Ms. Sakeena worked on four GBV cases and helped female victims to get justice by involving local police.
 - xxxi. Ms. Sakeena identified a teacher and a place for the skill center and is looking for donations to arrange sewing machines for the skill center.
 - xxxii. Lists for Bahimat Buzurg Program and Zakat funds were updated by Ms. Shamshad and Rasheda
 - xxxiii. Ms. Irshad Bano had the pension released of a widow in her area after the gap of six months however; her efforts to arrange the Zakat funds for the widows in her area went in vein.
 - xxxiv. Ms. Irshad also worked for the maintenance of the damaged road in her area with the help of Mr. Khushi Mohammad (Vice Chairman) and Mr. Malik M. Hussain (Ex-Councilor) of UC 69, Pattoki.
 - xxxv. Ms. Sakeena and Shamshad arranged a Mobile Registration Van (MRV) in the area of Nizampura in district Kasur and facilitate 100 (Fe/male) community members to get their CNICs.
 - xxxvi. Ms. Shamshad arranged a monthly meeting with 30 women of her community and sensitized them on the cleanliness of sewerage lines and streets.
 - xxxvii. Ms. Sakeena reconciled a gender-based violence case in Nizampura to help a female victim to settle with her in-laws.
 - xxxviii. Ms. Sakeena and Ms. Shamshad resolved a domestic violence case in Nizampura by involving 5 community members in reconciliation process and settled down the issue between the families.
 - xxxix. Ms. Shamshad provided financial assistance to a pregnant woman, left alone by her husband during the pregnancy.
 - xl. Ms. Shamshad with the help of other 5 community members financially assisted a woman to get her medical treatment in Nizampura.
 - xli. Ms. Shamshad with the help of Ms. Sakeena mobilized the community of Bagri Mewa to get vaccinated against COVID-19.
 - xlii. Ms. Shamshad helped a family with financial assistance for the wedding of their daughter.
 - xliii. Ms. Rasheeda Bashir and Ms. Sakeena resolved a domestic conflict through family

- counseling and settled matters between both families.
- xliv. Ms. Sakeena along with other District Council members, Kasur distributed cakes and cash gifts (Rs. 5000 to each church) in all churches of district Kasur on the occasion of Christmas.
 - xlv. Ms. Sakeena resolved a case of gender-based violence through counseling and mediation between the families in Chabeyan De Chugay.
 - xlvi. Ms. Sakeena got new electric poles fixed in the area of Nizampura in district Kasur. This initiative benefited 50 households and two government schools in the area.
 - xlvii. Ms. Sakina and Ms. Parveen arranged an MRV in the area of Nizampura (UC-16) for two days with the help of political leader Mr. Naeem. The MRVs resulted in getting 170 CNIC cards made.
 - xlviii. Ms. Sakina and Ms. Parveen got two electric poles installed in Nizampura (UC-16) with the facilitation of the Assistant Commissioner upon submitting the application. It benefitted the whole community.
 - xlix. Ms. Sakina and Ms. Shamshad resolved a case of domestic violence with the assistance of some local political leaders and mediated issues between her and her in-laws. Now the woman is safe in her house.
 - I. Ms. Sakeena and Shimshad complained against the UC secretary of Nizampura, to Local Government Office Kasur. Who used to demand bribe against the documentation of the community residents and helped the area residents to get their documents on fixed government fee.

Toba Tek Singh

 - li. Ms. Faiza organized an awareness session regarding health card use and benefits with 100 Fe/male community members of Christian Colony.
 - lii. Ms. Faiza got the new sewerage system installed in the area of Christian Colony, TTS with the help of 10 community women.

Immediate Outcome 1330: Enhanced capacity of grassroots women and local CSOs to engage in social accountability activities for improved gender responsive access to rights & services in 11 districts

Output 1331: Capacity built of grassroots women, allies and CSOs on social accountability, gender and human rights approach & government-instituted accountability and participation mechanism

Activity 1331.2: Workshop on Right to Information (RTI) Acts, social accountability tools and other government complaint/participation mechanisms

Progress:

Simorgh conducted three-day Social Accountability training with CSO partners on 22nd to 24th June, 2021. A total of 22 participants, including 19 CSO representatives and two district focal persons were trained on social accountability tools and approaches. The CSOs were invited from all three districts Lahore, Kasur and Toba Tek Singh to the training venue in Kamoke, with the purpose of enhancing the learning capacity of the CSO partners by focusing on their skills. The training was conducted by the Simorgh project team that had been trained by the Omar Asghar Khan Foundation OAKF on Social Accountability. The overall training focused on the participatory learning approach and familiarized participants with Social Accountability tools and the ways in which they can be used. The training session was designed on the material provided by OAKF following the **social accountability training guide**. The training helped workshop participants to develop their understanding of:

- Self, identity & power
- Forms of power: over, to, with, within

- Politics: definition, values & ethics
- Democracy and Accountability
- Social accountability: concepts & critical factors
- Social accountability action plans (SAPS)

The details of the CSO partners participated in the training is given below:

District	CSO	Female	Male	Transgender
Lahore	10	9	1	1
Kasur	5	1	4	
Toba Tek Singh	5	1	5	
Total	19	11	10	1

Methodology Used

- Pre-Test
- Brain Storming
- Group work
- Role Play
- Use of audio visual resource
- Follow-up after each session
- Participatory methodologies SALT & PRA
- Participants Post Test

Participants Feedback

The workshop ended on a positive note and feedback from participants collected in the form of comments and posttests. Verbal feedback from participants was also collected at the end of each training day for timely course corrections.

- Participants shared that they were satisfied with the training methodology and content.
- They liked the use of audio-visual resources like videos and the drama screening as effective tools for learning and conceptual clarity.
- Participants found the training technique completely different from the ones they have already attended and find this more productive.
- Participants shared PRA turned out to be very productive.

Output 1332: Technical Assistance provided for Social Accountability Action Plans to CSOs and community members, esp. women, to help women and girls access rights/services

Activity: Facilitation of CSOs to develop and implement Social Accountability Action Plans

Progress:

Social Mapping – Participatory Reflection Action PRA Sessions

Continuing the Social Accountability component, a total of **22 PRA sessions** under social accountability component have been conducted within the period of **September 2021 – February 2022** with the

project engaged CSO partners in their communities. Out of these 22 PRA sessions 10 in Lahore, 7 in Kasur and 5 in Toba Tek Singh have been carried out. Using the PRA (Participatory Reflection Action) tool of social mapping, local communities at different project sites were selected to assess their satisfaction with the available government/public services. These sessions enabled local communities in all three districts to analyse the situation of government services (available or needed) in their areas and take up their community demands. In each PRA session, communities were facilitated by the project team to identify priority issues to develop Social Action Plans (SAPs). The details of the raised issues/SAPs is given below:

Detailed Table

#Sr. No	District	Problem Statements	CSO Name	UC	Participants			Total
					Female	Male	Transgender	
1	Lahore	- Electricity Issues (Inflation, Overbilling, Transformers, Load-shedding, Damaged Power Lines) - Sewerage System (Unavailable Sewerage, Dysfunctional Drainage Systems, Damaged Pipelines) - Sanitation Facilities (Lack of Gutter Guards/Covers, Insufficient Garbage Trolleys, Lack of Waste Disposal Sites, Insufficient Sanitary Workers) - Gas Facility (Lack of Gas Connections, Gas Load-shedding) - Water Supply (Lack of Regular Clean Water Supply, Lack of Water Supply Connections)	WWHL	92	9	4	0	13
2			CRHD	126	10	2	0	12
3			AWF	245	6	6	0	12
4			SBF	246	8	9	0	17
5			WWDF	334	5	5	0	10
6			SWF	253	8	8	0	16
7			SDI	138 Momin Purah	13	5	0	18
8			AFM	UC 244	7	10	0	17
9			AWF	109	7	5	0	12
10			RKF	238	0	0	10	10
11	Kasur	- Water Filters (Unavailability of Water Filters, Dysfunctional Water Filters) - Street Lights (Lack of Street Lights, Dysfunctional lights) - Roads (Non-carpeted Roads, Broken/Damaged Roads) - Community Parks (Lack of Community Parks in many areas, Lack of Plantation and Cleanliness in the parks)	POSPAD	59	5	9		14
12			IF	11	6	6		12
13			AF	8	12	4		16
14			ASWT	17 MC	7	6	0	13
15			FFWO	94	8	6	0	14
16			EWS	32	5	8	0	13
17			BWF	14	6	7	0	13
18	Toba Tek Singh	- Govt. School Issues (Lack of Washrooms, Trained Teachers, Water Filters, Libraries, Labs and Boundaries, Skilled Management and Quality Education) - Medical Facilities (Unavailability	RF	51- Chak 296	8	7		15
19			SHD	25	7	10		17
20			HL	UC 28-328 G-B	6	9		15

21		of Dispensaries, Lack of Free Medicine, Emergency Ambulances, Test Services and Skilled Doctors, Insufficient Management at BHUs)	CSWF	Chak 321 UC 32	7	7		14
22		- Land Issues (Lack of community areas registration under the LDA) - Police/ Harassment / Media issues for transgender community/: Harassment by the landlords and neighborhood if they want to live on rent in any are, Police Harassment at the police stations/at night time usually, Lack of a check/regulations on the police officers, Lack of gender-sensitive reporting on media channels. - Water Supply (Lack of Pipelines, Clean Water Supply, Damaged Water Pipelines) - Water Filters (Lack of Water Filters, Dysfunctional Filters) - Electricity (Insufficient Transformers/Poles, Insufficient Wirings, Load-shedding, Lack of WAPDA Emergency Van) - Dispensary/BHUs (Lack of 24/7 service, Unavailable LHWs, Insufficient Rooms, Lack of Doctors, Lack of Medicines, Unavailability of Dispensaries) - Sewerage System (Lack of Proper Sewerage Lines and Gutter Systems, Dysfunctional Sewerage System) - Sanitation Facilities (Insufficient Sanitary Workers, No Regular Cleaning Facility, Insufficient Garbage Containers)	RF	Kacha Gojra (Tehsil level working)	6	13	0	19
		Total			156	146	10	312

Challenges

- Attitude of the male CSO representatives to not to promote female participation in project training
- Most of the CSO partners did not mobilize the potential community groups to participate in the activity

- Another important challenge that came to project team during these sessions was that unavailability of government services in many project communities is due to illegal/un-registered residential land.

SAPs Completed

Installation of Street Lights

CSO partner Commission for Research and Human Development (CRHD) has completed a Social Action Plan (SAP) in the area of Misri Shah, (UC-121), Lahore, regarding the installation of street lights. The community did not have the facility of street lights in the area, which increased street crimes and security issues for the residents. The application for the installation of street lights written application submitted to the UC Chairman Mr. Zaheer Butt in his office. After continuous follow-ups, **8 street lights provided to the community which benefited almost 100 households.**

Restoration of sewerage

Happy Life Social Welfare Organization (HLSWO) undertook a SAP in to restore sewerage system and clearance of waste water in the area of area of 328 JB, Toba Tek Singh. The waste water was a major issue for the residents of the area as dirty water clogged right in front of the church. HSLWO Director Mr. Sultan Mahmood Sindhu had a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Mr. Javaid who directed CO Municipal Committee M. Tauseef to facilitate immediate action. On this, **Municipal Committee repaired the sewerage system and cleaned the waste water from the roads.** This action benefited **8500 households** in the area.

Restoration of Transformer

HLSWO undertook another SAP for the restoration of burnt power transformer at Water Works No.1 in the area of 328 JB, Mohallah Islampura, Toba Tek Singh. The residents complained about the lack of water supply in the area for four days. On which, Mr. Sultan Sindhu, President HPSWO submitted an application to CO Municipal Committee Mr. Tauseef and had a meeting with Mian Kashif Ashfaq (senior leader PTI) to provide assistance on the issue. Mr. Kashif Ashfaq reported the matter to the Executive Engineer (XEN) WAPDA, who ordered to install the transformer immediately. This action helped to ensure the **provision of water to 8500 households** in the area.

Rehabilitation of Community Park

The team of HLSWO visited the Ladies Taco Park in district headquarter Toba Tek Singh and observed poor maintenance of the park. After this, the team of HLSWO had a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Mr. Javaid and CO Municipal Committee Mr. Tauseef and demanded the improvement of facilities at the park. On this, Mr. Omar along with Mr. Tauseef visited the park and released 1.5 lakh funds for the restoration of the park. This **action benefitted the 10,000 households** in the area.

Restoration of Damaged Water Pipeline

Ms. Hadia mobilized the community women in her area and initiated a complaint to WASA officials to repair rusted water pipeline in Misri Shah, (UC 121), Lahore for the supply of clean water and benefited 700 HHs in the area through this action.

Restoration of Community Park

WWHL team got the community park restored in their area Sodiwal, (UC 92), Lahore with the assistance of MPA Aslam Iqbal. For this purpose they formed an area committee and submitted application at PHA office as well. This action benefited almost 1500 HHs in the area.

Restoration of Water Filtration Plant

The team of WWHL got the water filtration plant repaired in the area of Sodiwal, UC 92 by submitting an application to the former councilor and Chairman Naveed Gujar. He facilitated this action plan after the continuous protest of the area committee WWHL. This resulted in restoration of water filtration plant which benefited 1200 HHs in the catchment area.

Rehabilitation of Waste Disposal System

Team WWHL worked for the proper waste management in the area of Sodiwal, UC 92. Where huge heaps of garbage from an illegal dumping site were cleaned and three waste containers were also got fixed for the community. This action plan was facilitated by the LWMC Area Supervisor Mr. Shehzad, MD Niazi and Aslam Khan. This action benefited 800 HHs in the area.

Provision of School Furniture

The team of WWHL identified lack of furniture and faculty at the government Middle Secondary School of Sodiwal, UC 92. To address these issues they held a meeting with the school principal Ms. Sajida and submitted an application on which she shared that the school lacks resources so Ms. Razia (ex-councilor) took these issues to MPA Mr. Aslam Iqbal who facilitated the action the provision of 30 benches in the school.

Appropriate Alignment of Electric Wires

The team of WWHL identified the issues of disburged electric wires which were threatening the lives of the community (esp. children). To resolve this issue they submitted an application to the XEN Officer WAPDA who then sent a team to probe the issue in the area. This action plan resulted in the maintenance of disarranged electric wires in the area and benefitted 700 HHs.

Installation of Electric Transformer

The team of WWHL worked on getting an electric transformer in place of dysfunctional transformer which was causing irregular load shedding in the area. On this team WWHL submitted an application to the SDO WAPDA, who sent a WAPDA official along with the Area Meter Reader M. Irshad to evaluate the problem. The identified of the new transformer in the area and after continuous follow-up by WWHL on this request WAPA installed the new transformer for the community. This action plan benefitted 1200 HHs in Sodiwal.

Activity 1331.3: Exposure visits of community women to government and private service providers

Progress:

This year only two exposure visits have been conducted in district Kasur and Toba Tek Singh. The details of these visits are given below:

Exposure Visit Kasur

A group of **10 councilors** along with the project team **visited the Dar-ul-Aman** in district Kasur on **30th June 2021**. The exposure visit was facilitated by the Manager Dar-ul-Aman Ms. Sidra Taj. She briefed participants on the structure, functioning and facilities available for women in Dar-ul-Aman. She also explained the admission process in detail to the participants and also addressed the different queries raised by the participants.

Ms. Sidra appreciated Simorgh Women Resource and Publication Centre for conducting this visit to enlighten the community women on the services provided by Dar-ul-Aman for women. Participants seemed satisfied with briefing and visited the building to meet the women residents and get their response to the facilities available there.

Exposure Visit Toba Tek Singh

A group of **9 community women and councilors** visited **Sanatzar, Old Age Home and Dar-ul-Aman (DAU) on 16th August, 2021**. This visit was facilitated by Ms. Eyesha Javeed (Manager Sanatzar) and Ms. Muneeba Mehboob (Superintendent DUA) welcomed the participants and facilitated the exposure visit through providing details of services provided by each department. The admission process, necessary documentation and available facilities covered by these departments provided in detail to the participants. Participants asked questions and received first hand information from the staff of these departments.

Participant' Feedback

- Participants of the Kasur exposure visit did not provide a satisfactory written feedback due mainly to the fact that they were illiterate and unable to fill up the forms. However, in their verbal feedback they showed satisfaction with the given information and promised to share it with other community women to make them aware of shelter services.
- Participants of TTS exposure visit provided both oral and written feedbacks and showed their satisfaction on the information provided on all three departments. Almost all of them visited these departments for the first time – participants shared that the given information about the services of these departments and their functioning is completely different from what they had heard.

Challenges

- A few participants with their inappropriate behaviour disturbed the tempo of the exposure visit and created an unnecessary disturbance among the group in district Kasur.
- It has been observed that the majority of the participants were illiterate who did not provide effective participation and productive feedback regarding their visit to the DUA, district Kasur.
- Deputy District Officer, Social Welfare, Kasur interrupted the session and tried to convince the project team to provide travel costs and meals for his staff.
- Despite being informed that this visit to a women's facility was for women only, the Male CSOs insisted on being part of the Exposure Visit. Consequently, they were asked to leave the venue and let women avail this opportunity.

Actions Taken

Kasur

- Ms. Hajan Salma (District Member) shared information on services and the admission process of Dar-ul-Aman with the 25 community women of Committee Ghar, Pattoki.
- Ms. Sakeena (District Member) also shared the information on working of Dar-ul-Aman with the 20 community women of UC Nizam Pura.

Toba Tek Singh

- Ms. Naveen (Representative Ravi Foundation) shared exposure visit, TTS information with the office staff and community women of UC 51, Chak 296.
- Ms. Kashish (Representative Ravi Foundation) also organized an awareness session on the working of Dar-ul-Aman, Shelter Home and Old Age Home with 30 community women of Christian Colony, TTS.
- Ms. Aqeela also shared this information with the 13 community members Fe/male (8/5) of Saraa village, Gojra. She also offered her help to a woman to get admission in Dar-ul-Aman, but that woman did not provide any response to it.
- Ms. Ruqeeya (ex-councilor) shared related details with the 17 community members (10-F/7-

M) in Shorkot cantt.

Lahore

- Ms. Hadia shared this briefing with 12 community women in Misri Shah
- Ms. Zakia shared exposure visit details with 15 community women and referred two outsiders to Panahgah Tohakar Niaz Baig.

3) Operations

a. Changes to Project Governance

Report on: Changes and major developments to project governance , Any management issues affecting project implementation and performance, Adjustments in management practices which have been implemented or are being proposed , Major decisions made at stakeholder meeting and steering committees

Simorgh administration and project teams organized timely meetings to discuss project performance and implementation methodologies. Decisions in this regard included:

- Suspension of field activities at the sudden onset of the third wave of Corona.
- Closure of Simorgh office for daily operations to avoid any Corona SOP violation during lockdown
- Undertake activities at larger venues with small gathering following SOPs
- Corona vaccination made compulsory for project teams
- Partnership with women headed CSOs to promote gender balance in district groups
- Postponed field activities during **Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan's (TLP) strikes in October 2021** to avoid any serious mishap in the field
- Turned on weekends as working days **in the month of March 2022** to complete the target number of workshops delayed due unavailability of trainers during week days
- Adjustment of funds from other resources to run project activities in order to avoid delays

b. Changes to Risk and Analysis

Any new risks identified or changes to identified risks should be discussed. If any risks occurred, explain what action was taken to mitigate the risk, or what action will be required to mitigate the risk

Risk

Covid-19

The risks and challenges of the Corona affected project implementation in its third spike and disturbed work schedules. Project partners and communities were greatly affected by Covid infections (at the team and community levels) which not only disrupted planned activities, but also caused delays in report submissions.

Mitigation Strategy:

As mitigation strategy to prevent the spread of the virus appropriate precautions were adopted. All staff members and field partners were advised to follow the SOPS strictly; vaccination was made mandatory for Simorgh staff and partners were encouraged to get vaccinated.

Risk

Misogynistic Behaviour

It has been observed during the social accountability training that male CSO partners were reluctant to promote female staff for project activities and showed a gender bias regarding their participation.

Mitigation Strategy:

To mitigate this risk, CSOs were requested to ensure the participation of female staff in the project activities/training sessions. Similarly, to encourage female and trans participation a woman headed organization Ittehad Foundation in district Kasur and a trans headed organization Rooh-e-Khalida in district Lahore were added to the project. Later on, a female headed organization Ravi Foundation from district Toba Tek Singh was also included in district network.

Risk**Political Influence**

Ms. Safia (President Women Wing PMLN) along with her allies in district Kasur tried to use her political influence to undermine the representation of women councilors (especially those affiliated with other political parties) who are working with Fempower Women's Political Forums.

Mitigation Strategy

To deal with this risk a new group of councilors was formed in district Kasur and were briefed on project objectives and their role.

Risk**Disinterest of CSO Partners**

CSO partners in Toba Tek Singh suddenly seemed to lose their interest in project activities in the first quarter and did not show any progress in undertaking actions as planned.

Mitigation Strategy:

Project team contacted the district focal person and CSO partners to investigate the problem. It came out in subsequent discussions that they had issues regarding project concepts. A short meeting during Social Accountability training was conducted to discuss their concerns. CSO partners asked questions and got clarity on misunderstandings.

Risk**Expectation of Funds**

Project stakeholders in almost all project sites expect and demand substantial funds to engage in project activities. This caused delays and disturbances in the conduct of ASN meetings, exposure visits and women's political forum meetings.

Mitigation Strategy:

Participants of different activities, especially ASN and women political forums were informed clearly that funds are not available for their personal assistance. It has been decided to change the venue for ASN meetings to avoid unreasonable favours by government departments in the future.

Risk**Uncooperative Attitude of Government Officials**

It has been observed and experienced in almost all ASN meetings that district officials of various departments despite their commitments did not attend the meetings to facilitate the forum members on department relevant programmes and procedures.

Mitigation Strategy:

It has been decided to visit the Government Officials in their respective departments related to ASN issues and push them for their participation in ASN meetings and facilitation on related issues.

Risk**Conflict of Religious Sentiments**

During Leadership trainings it was observed that most of the Fe/male participants during Gender based

exercises **wrote down sacred religious words on cards to display male supremacy.** Also Fe/males discussed religious references to describe their roles in society and highlighted the need to observe **Purdah** for women. During these exercises mishandling of written sacred words and religious debates could be risky for trainers and project team.

Mitigation Strategy:

The project team at the start of every workshop announced not to write down any sacred/religious word on cards/flip, picked such cards beforehand and tried to overcome long debates strategically.

Risk

Inadequate Management

CSO partners and Focal Persons did not focus on mobilizing the potential workshop participants in most of the training sessions, which could impact the project implementation at the target locations.

Mitigation Strategy

Project team kept a check on the participating groups and notified the CSO members and focal persons for not engaging the potential participants during the workshops.