



<Pakistan>

## FINAL REPORT

### Every Voice Counts Programme

1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020

#### I. Analysis of Progress (Based on the 6 Core Indicators of the Dissent and Dialogue Strategic Partnership)

##### Indicator DSH: # of institutions strengthened (in terms of fairness, effectiveness, accountability and independence)

1. Please indicate the number of institutions (village, community, district, provincial/state and national government authorities and service providers) that are strengthened by taking part in the EVC programme (e.g. community score card, THA trainings, dialogues).

Community Score Card has been rolled out twice in 2019. The major theme was Participation of communities in governance processes, which was further narrowed down to three main areas; awareness about scope and mandate of district level government departments, smooth communication between communities and government representatives and participation of women. Government Institutions, including Social Welfare Department, Police Department, Health Department, District Commissioner office, Women Development from both districts were strengthened in this process. Capacities were strengthened of one direct CSO, 220 community groups (CGs) and 22 steering committees (SCs).

In 2020 after COVID 19 restrictions were relaxed, a CSC Meeting in October 2020 was organized at District Mirpurkhas and Umerkot with community and government departments to discuss gender related issues and to review and develop action plans regarding the inclusiveness of communities in government level decision making. It also worked on getting the District Gender Forums activated in Districts Mirpurkhas and Umerkot for effective district public authorities and community representatives, participation included local government, district administration, police, health and education department endorsed that they will continue this forum with the support of Social Welfare Department and other civil society organizations. The civil society organization showed their interest to continue Gender Forum activities in Mirpurkhas and Umerkot against Child Marriages and Domestic Violence.

Two trainings of Union Council Secretaries of both Districts have been conducted during this reporting month, on the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013, the mandate of the local government department and the role of the union council secretaries to register marriages, births, nikkahs and nikkah registrar and pundits as per the laws. More than 90 union council secretaries of both district actively participated in the trainings. Regional Director and



Additional Directors of Umerkot and Mirpurkhas concluded the training and distributed the certificates among the participants in a closing ceremony.

In 2019 16 Representatives of 6 district level Government departments (4 women, 12 men) which included Social Welfare, Women Development Department, Police, Department of Revenue, representatives of Local Government and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) office participated in a one-week training. The training was held in Islamabad. It aimed at enhancing the capacities of Government officials on major concepts related to inclusive governance including, decentralization, social exclusion, issues of marginalized men & women and citizen participation. The methodology of training was interactive and practice-oriented, and sessions were designed to keep the involvement of all representatives intact. Officials were asked to come up with strategies to engage marginalized groups in public policies and local authorities' processes. The output of this training was development of inclusive governance action plans. The key highlight of this training was the presence of the master trainer from The Hague Academy of Netherlands, who not only mentored the other trainers and provided timely feedback, but also observed the whole training processes to ensure the quality. Language was not a barrier since all participants understood and spoke the English language, so the master trainer not only interacted frequently with participants, but also led some key sessions.

In 2020 A training of Government Officials and CSOs was conducted by CARE international at Islamabad on Transformational leadership, where participants revised and developed their new action plans.

2. Please describe examples on how these institutions demonstrated that their capacities were strengthened.

All these departments formulated district-based action plans by the end of the inclusive governance training. Major actions included:

- ✓ To ensure that District monitoring committees under Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013 are functional.
- ✓ To build capacity of religious leaders, lady health workers, schoolteachers and counsellors on Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013.
- ✓ To enhance capacities of relevant stake holders (Chief Executive of Council, Kotar, elected representatives, Marriage registrar, Civil society, lady health workers) on Child Marriage Restraint act 2013 & Hindu Marriage Act 2017.

1. Government departments are rolling out the plans on inclusive governance. Several meetings and visits to communities were organised by District administration in order to orient them on the mandate of government departments. The number of citizens approaching these departments have reportedly increased.
2. The establishment of District Monitoring Committees (DMCs) for the Sindh Child Marriage Act in the districts of Umer Kot and Mirpur Khas in July and November 2019 respectively is a historical progress towards implementation of the law



3. The revival and functional gender forums in Umerkhas and in MirpurKhas led by the local authorities with representatives from Police, Education, Health, District administration, Bar Association, Women development department, local government department, information department, civil society and community members. The formation of Gender Forum was appreciated by all the government and civil society representatives while promising to extend their support in contributing to resolve the social issues related to women.
4. The CSOs working in districts; Umarkot and Mirpurkhas have been brought together by the platform of DEGs for lobbying and advocacy with district and provincial level public authorities - to highlight issues related to women's empowerment. These organizations are working in close collaboration with other stakeholders on women's empowerment, education, livelihood, DRR, advocacy, networking and implementation of laws and policies related to women, by following their well-placed mobilization strategies and human resources.
5. These institutions vigorously worked on their action plans. Key actions included active coordination between community and district authorities, facilitation of communities - especially women - in Police Department, representation and linkages of communities with District Commissioner office staff, ownership by Women Development Department on raising awareness regarding Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act and operationalization of the Safe house in Umar Kot. The office of the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Umer Kot has revamped its systems. They have set up an independent District Complaint Centre which reports directly to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) office. The key features of this centre are that it has an exclusive women's desk and women staff to cater for the complaints of gender-based violence (GBV). The complaints against police can also be registered in this centre.

**Indicator DD6: # of CSOs included in SPs programmes**

1. How many direct CSO partners are involved in the programme? These are the CSOs which has a formal partnership with CARE and which receive funding and capacity building.

One direct CSO, Community World Service Asia, is included in programme and has a formal partnership with CARE.

2. Apart from direct CSO partners, how many other CSOs (national, provincial, local) are linked<sup>1</sup> with the programme?

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<sup>1</sup> By link we mean:

- those who receive awareness raising training,
- those who participate in advocacy activities of the direct CSOs



A total of 18 previously identified organizations formally started working as District Engagement Groups as per set criteria and TORs during an inclusive governance training. These organisations are working on women empowerment, education, livelihood, DRR, advocacy, networking and implementation of laws and policies related to women empowerment in close collaboration with other stakeholders by following their well-placed mobilization strategies and human resources.

3. How many women's groups were formed through the programme?<sup>2</sup>

In order to enhance the capacity of women and girls in communities, the EVC programme established three key structures. This includes 220 Community Groups in villages, each consisting of one male and one female pair. The pair underwent extensive training and later disseminated training to five households whom they are representing. The full group undertakes activities like advocacy with mother in-laws and other informal power holders to restrict negative cultural practices affecting women like early marriages, domestic violence and mobility restrictions. EVC also established 22 Steering Committees as supervisory village bodies, with 15 members in each with equal representation of males and females.

Participation of women in all the forums such as Community Groups, Steering Committee, Gender Forum, Theatre Group, and Core Lobbying Group have been ensured. In addition to these, a Rural Association with 200 female artisans has been formed and which will be registered with the Women Chamber of Commerce with the aim to highlight the skills of rural artisans and increased opportunities for economic and social well-being of their families.

Women who are involved in the project are also engaged in lending their hands in agriculture, livestock management, handy craft work, agriculture labour, working as teachers, students or involved in social work. The majority of these women is between 15-40 years old, but some of the women are at the age of 50.

4. How many youth groups were formed through the programme?<sup>2</sup>

Exclusive youth groups are not formed in EVC in Pakistan, but youth is rather represented in community groups, steering committees and specifically theater groups.

5. How many community advocacy groups (mix om women and men) were formed though the programme?<sup>2</sup> What is the purpose/objective of the group? Describe the members involved?

Steering Committees (SGs) are supervisory bodies at each village level. There are 22 steering committees in EVC. There are in total 15 members in each steering committee with equal representation of males and females. Members are influentials of the community like religious

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<sup>2</sup> Please include all groups that were formed throughout the programme (Y1+Y2)



leaders, teachers, social workers, etc. Their overall role is to facilitate and supervise project activities at village level and to support community groups in their activities. They ensure participation of their respective villages at district-level activities (seminars, workshops, trainings, coordination meetings, etc.). They take the leading role in advocacy of their village-level issues related to women empowerment and good governance at district, and provincial level and actively participate and bridge linkages of their respective community groups with district line departments. They also supervise community groups in rolling out CSC.

Two District Engagement Groups (DEGs) are comprised of district based CSOs, representatives of Community Groups and Steering Committees. At least 20 percent representation is ensured from religious minority communities. These groups have devised their own action plan and finalized district level advocacy strategy based on the findings from steering committees and community groups. These groups are also responsible for networking, coordination and advocacy with provincial and national level stakeholders and structures.

#### **Indicator DD5: # of CSOs with increased L&A capacities**

##### **Capacity**

1. Please describe at least 5 examples on how the skills and knowledge were applied, and what positive results they resulted to (Please refer to the OH database).
- District monitoring committees under Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013 were made functional.
  - Capacity of religious leaders, lady health workers, school teachers, counsellors, elected representatives, Marriage registrar, Civil society, lady health workers) on Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013 & Hindu Marriage Act 2017 was developed.
  - A number of meetings and visits were done by District administration to communities in order to orient them on mandate of government departments.
  - A video was developed on Child marriage with objective of raising awareness among communities and government. Social welfare Department headed a major awareness raising campaign and launched this video at district level.
  - Police Department undertook training of Station House Officers (SHO) on Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013. Further, Police Department also identified the need of relevant material to be translated into Sindhi language in easy to comprehend language.

Please describe which L&A capacity building approaches<sup>3</sup> worked and which did not work, and why. Formal training, workshops, exchange visits and mentoring have proved to be beneficial.

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<sup>3</sup> Approaches include: formal training, linking & learning workshops, exchange visits, coaching and advice, technical assistance.



Indicator DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency

ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

- How many advocacy initiatives were carried out by CARE and direct CSO partners from **1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020.**

The CSOs working in Umarkot and Mirpurkhas have been brought together by the platform of DEGs for lobbying and advocacy with district and provincial level public authorities to highlight issues related to women's empowerment. These organizations are working on women's empowerment, education, livelihood, DRR, advocacy, networking and implementation of laws and policies related to women in close collaboration with other stakeholders, by following their well-placed mobilization strategies and human resources.

- Prior to COVID-19, awareness-raising activities also included advocacy among community and other stakeholders regarding child marriages, Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013 and issues in implementation of the said act. The awareness campaign on Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013 and issue related to women's empowerment was being done through seminars, theatre performances, screening events, and celebration of international days. However, due to the pandemic apart from community meetings following SOPs that were convened, it was not possible to hold physical meetings and gatherings at district and provincial level, therefore the awareness campaigns were shifted to print and electronic media. Since August, DEG members have been publishing articles in provincial and national level newspapers and Local FM radios of both districts are broadcasting messages of influential people such as celebrities, officials of government department like Women Development, Police, Education Department, Health Department, Local Government and Social Welfare, lawyers, MPAs, Religious leaders and civil society members. In addition to this, panel discussions have also been organized on Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013, girls' education and pro-women laws by involving DEGs members and experts from different spheres of life.
- During the reporting month DEGs have had 2 panel discussions on Indus FM Umerkot and Jeay FM Mirpurkhas, whereas public services awareness (PSA) messages in local languages on child marriages, girls' school enrolment and the implementation of Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013 for rural and urban communities of both districts has been broadcasted on FM channels on frequent basis. The media campaign remains very significant in raising awareness on the issues as it has a broad outreach with great impact.
- DEGs members from Mirpurkhas and Umerkot are continuously writing articles on child marriages issue, violence against women, girls' education and implementation of laws in different local newspapers. More than 25 articles have been published in



different newspapers. Due to these articles now communities and common people are getting knowledge regarding the prevailing issues, and identifying gaps in the implementation of laws and role of district level departments in addressing these issues.

- What type of advocacy initiatives contributed to (most) significant outcomes based on the Outcome Harvesting (OH) database?
- Revival and formation of gender forum headed by social welfare department in Umerkot and Mirpur has with representation of women
- Activation of provincial and district monitoring committees to ensure implementation of Child Marriages and Restraint Act with representation of women
- Operationalization of safe houses for women and girl
- Establishment of child protection unit in Umerkot under Sindh child protection Authority Act 2011
- Registration of Nikah Khwans, Pandits, Marriages and Births
- Capacity building of all stakeholders (Government, Community and Civil Society) on Child Marriages and Restraint Act 2013 and relevant issues
- Registration of Child Marriage cases by police under the law
- Establishment of women complaint and protection desk represented by women staff in DIG and SSP office Mirpurkhas with a helpline to respond to complaints of women
- In some villages influentials of the community and religious leaders are playing their active roles after witnessing theater performances. they now stand with steering committee and community groups for the prevention of child marriages and promoting/advocating girls education.
- 30 women artisans have been registered with the Association of Rural Women Entrepreneurs/women chamber of commerce which was not easy task, as all of them were illiterate and had no sim card registered under their name. Their registration with women's chambers perhaps has been the best thing to ever happen for women entrepreneurs in Pakistan. Despite comprising 51 per cent of the population, until 2006, women didn't have a voice in the economic policy development. Whereas now, there are registered women's chambers to raise the voice on behalf of their members.
- The trained Artisans have worked on 1280 different products and have earned a revenue of PKR 800,000/- during this reporting period.

**Indicator DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage.**

**SPACE FOR DIALOGUE**



1. How many times did CARE and/or direct CSO partners and community advocacy groups were effective dialoguing/lobbying and negotiating with targeted government authorities and power holders?
  
6. The establishment of District Monitoring Committees (DMCs) for the Sindh Child Marriage Act in the districts of Umer Kot and Mirpur Khas in July and November 2019 respectively is a historical progress towards implementation of the law and represents a significant space for dialogue.
  
7. The Gender Forum was formed in MirpurKhas on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The Women Development Department will be custodian of the forum and lead it. The formation meeting of the forum was attended by about 30 participants including representatives from Police, Education, Health, District administration, Bar Association, Women development department, local government department, information department, civil society and community members. The formation of Gender Forum was appreciated by all the government and civil society representatives while promising to extend their support in contributing to resolve the social issues related to women.
  
2. The Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, is also the focal person of Gender Forum and shared the objectives and structure of Gender Forum. He also shared about the effort made by him in the activation of Child Protection Unit in Umerkot on request of DEGs. During the discussion one of the police officials stated *“Gender Forum is a unique platform. It not only provide us with an opportunity to interact with community, civil society, and other government departments to discuss issues related to women and gender but is also a source to gain knowledge regarding the new laws and policies that are being implemented at district level”*. it was also shared by police officials that after their training on Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013, 7 cases of child marriages have been registered with the support of community and civil society organizations.
  
3. The LAS particularly from the Health and Education departments appreciated the Gender Forum and said that this is the only platform where community, civil society and government department sit together to discuss the issues and gaps in the implementation of laws and policies. He also said that CWSA along with SC and DEG is playing vital role into the girls’ enrollment. He ensured that the department will facilitate member organizations of Gender Forum in awareness campaigns regarding girls’ education and/or child marriages.
  
4. During the DEG forum formation meeting participants were briefed about the project and achievements under the project, as well as the purpose of the forum and strategy to run the forum. The participation of community in the meeting was appreciated by all government departments. The In-charge of Women Complaint Cell of police department shared that such kind of platforms are much needed in the district to cope with gender-related issues. The Police department is in the process of making necessary changes and adopting friendly policies for women who are victims of



- violence. A Women Complaint Cell is under construction with a separate building, which will be run by female police officials.
5. A CSC Meeting was organized at District Mirpurkhas and Umerkot with community and government departments to discuss gender related issues and to review and develop action plans regarding the inclusiveness of communities in government level decision making.
  6. A Gender forum meeting was conducted in Umerkot for the sustainability of the forum which was attended by district public authorities and community representatives. During the meeting, district public authorities including local government, district administration, police, health and education department endorsed that they will continue this forum with the support of Social Welfare Department and other civil society organizations, the civil society organization showed their interest to continue Gender Forum activities in Umerkot.
  7. After the formation of Gender Forum in Mirpurkhas district, the first meeting of the forum has been organized with the leads of women development and other relevant departments including police, local government department, social welfare department, and health and education department were among the participants. Civil society organizations promised that they will support women development department in organizing the Gender Forum meetings on quarterly basis. This is a unique platform where civil society organizations, community, and government can sit together for the development of action plans and identifying the issues related to gender, prevention of child marriages and domestic violence.

**Indicator DD2 # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes, blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development**

**NEW AND IMPROVED LAWS AND POLICIES**

1. Indicate the number of laws, policies and policy guidelines that were successfully improved as a result of lobbying and advocacy by CARE and/or direct CSO partners. Please also describe the significant changes in those laws, policies and guidelines.
2. Indicate the number of new laws, policies and policy guidelines that were successfully adopted as a result of lobbying and advocacy by CARE and/or direct CSO partners. Please also describe the main content of those laws, policies and guidelines.

**Indicator DD1: # of laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development.**



## **NORMS CHANGED, LAWS AND POLICIES IMPLEMENTED**

1. Please indicate the number of laws and policies with appropriate regulatory measures, implementation plans, funding and monitoring frameworks.

Police registered its first case under the Child Marriage Restraint Act in December 2019 in Mirpur Khas. This was first time ever; implementation of law is ongoing.

In the month of July 2019, the Safe house in Umer kot has become functional and catered for survivors of domestic violence, which are referred to the Safe house Umer kot for three days before moving to the long-term facility in Dar ul Aman. This outcome is important as activation of safe house was identified as one of key action points. Safe houses provide interim shelter to GBV survivors and have so far not been operational at district level.

Deputy Director Local Government Department issued notifications in favour of all union councils, town and municipal committees during the month of July to register Nikkah Khowans, Pandits and marriages in Umer Kot in pursuance of the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013 and Sindh Hindu Marriage Act 2016. Though the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013 clearly defines the registration of Nikkah Khowans, Pundits and marriages, its implementation has not been put in practice since 2013. Local governments having mandate of these registrations do not try to compile such information. However, after issuance of this notification, the responsible officials are bound to register each marriage, due to which not only child marriage will be restrained, but also performing such rituals will only be authorized to registered persons.

Following three outcomes are key to ensure implementation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act.

- DC Umar Kot made monitoring committees functional in an event on 3 July 2019.
- Local Government of Mirpur Khas issued a notice to all Secretaries and Chairmen to ensure marriage and birth registration on 19 June 2019.

Deputy Commissioner shared DMC notification in July 2019 during his meeting with DEG in Mirpur Khas

The biggest achievement of 2020 has been the case of sale of children through child marriages that was restrained with the efforts of DEGs, government department, District Monitoring Committee and immediate action by police to register FIR against the father of the girl and groom and other culprits.

The first ever meeting of provincial monitoring committee on child marriages had been called in the month of October 2020 after the successful lobbying of DEGs at provincial level authorities on the activation of provincial monitoring committee. All the relevant departments and members participated in the meeting. The manual of local government training has been distributed among all the members of provincial monitoring committee. The efforts taken by



CARE, CWSA and DEGs members in terms of implementation of Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013, have been highly appreciated.

The women development department has established a women desk at their district office in Mirpurkhas where there was no such facility for women to register their complainants. The department will now provide them with legal assistance as well.

DIG police Mirpurkhas has established a women protection and complaint cell in SSP and DIG office, where all female staff has been appointed to facilitate victimized women. A toll free helpline has also been introduced in this regard. Now women can lodge their complaints through phone calls as well. (Refer to the Action Plans of DEGs and LAs)

**II. Please describe key lessons learnt regarding the implementation of activities from 2016-2020.**

Lessons learned should be based on an analysis of the context, challenges, and correctives measures taken (Please refer to the outcomes of the discussions during the 2020 country and global learning events of EVC).

<i>Reflection on context/challenges/corrective measures taken</i>	<i>If you have to implement EVC again, what would you change in your interventions?</i>	<i>What would you do the same? And are the interventions worth replicating elsewhere?</i>
<p>The Current COVID-19 pandemic has posed serious challenges including Umerkot and Mirpurkhas districts, where government officials and politicians remain busy in the emergency responses. Crops and agriculture lands have been destroyed in the flash floods. Local communities have lost their jobs and livelihood but project team still remained stuck with the agenda of the women economic empowerment and Sindh Child marriage Restraint Act 2013. The recent floods have not only</p>	<p>Upscale advocacy initiatives from District, provincial and national levels</p>	<p>Implementation of laws to prevent GBV</p> <p>Capacity building of key stakeholders and development of Action Plan.</p> <p>Monitor the implementation of Action Plans</p> <p>Support in Economic Empowerment/Justice</p>



<p>destroyed major standing cash crops like chilies and cotton, but also wasted the following cropping season. The project activities were delayed and to suffer at field and district level, due to a lack of access to community. Many of the families migrated to safer places are getting back to their native villages to restart their livelihoods from scratch.</p> <p>As an emergency response to floods and COVID-19, CWSA has been providing collective financial support of PKR 12,000 to 380 families for three months on monthly basis and another 620 families for a month to cater their food and other daily household needs. This amount has been calculated as per government set amounts under Ahsass Kafalat Program and to meet the 2100 kilo calories count per day per person as per sphere standards.</p> <p>The Sindh Government is also seriously undertaking women related issues in this current pandemic. Police departments of Umerkot and Mirpurkhas districts, have reported multiple cases of domestic violence and child marriages which are increasing in number. Due to this situation, district engagement group of the project remains busy in lobbying and advocating with provincial authorities regarding the implementation of laws related to women. As the result of these</p>		
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<p>meetings, a provincial monitoring committee on child marriages has been activated and its first ever meeting has also been held.</p>		
	<p>Strengthen prevention and response services through increasing the number of referrals especially in health units to support survivors of GBV</p>	<p>Interventions especially space for dialogues are worth implementing</p>
	<p>Introduce and implement Dignified work agenda especially for women engaged in productive work</p>	