



ILLUME

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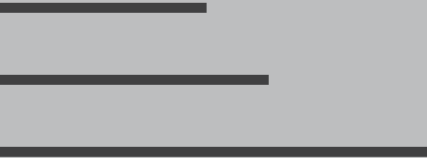


World Tuberculosis Day



Editor's note

In this issue, we spotlight the impactful initiatives under the Women Voices and Leadership (WVL) program in Pakistan, emphasizing our commitment to gender equality and empowerment. The various components of the Gender Leadership Program (GLP) demonstrate our dedication to cultivating leadership skills among both men and women, fostering advocates for change in their communities. Our focus on gender awareness and employability, particularly in the textile sector, underscores the importance of equipping women with the necessary skills and opportunities for economic success. Additionally, our outreach efforts, including breast cancer awareness campaigns and partnerships with organizations like IFES and GBTI, highlight our collaborative approach to addressing social challenges and enhancing women's participation in governance and health education. Celebrating milestones such as the 70th anniversary of the Population Council reaffirms our advocacy for reproductive health and family planning. Through these initiatives and strategic discussions, we continue to strengthen our networks and align our goals with the evolving needs of our communities, striving toward a future where women's voices are amplified, and their contributions are recognized and valued.





CEO Message

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a major global health threat, particularly in regions with limited resources and restricted access to medical care. This contagious disease continues to impose a heavy burden on healthcare systems and communities worldwide, especially where financial and medical resources are scarce. Even as the world combats emerging pandemics like COVID-19, we must not overlook persistent and long-standing health challenges like TB, which still requires dedicated attention and action.

WVL (Women's Voice and Leadership) projects have contributed significantly to addressing TB, particularly by strengthening healthcare systems and creating awareness in vulnerable communities. Through WVL initiatives, awareness campaigns, health education, and improved access to treatment are prioritized, fostering environments where TB prevention and early detection are possible. These projects engage local leaders and empower women to be advocates for health within their communities, playing a crucial role in reducing stigma around TB and promoting better health-seeking behavior.

Under the leadership of Robeela Bangash, CEO of HRDN, there has been a reaffirmation of commitment to battling TB and ensuring that no one bears the weight of this disease alone. By uniting efforts, we can tackle TB, paving the way for a healthier, more hopeful future.

Robeela Bangash



World Tuberculosis (TB) Day

World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, observed every year on March 24th, highlights the global challenge of tuberculosis—a preventable and treatable disease that still ranks among the leading causes of death worldwide. This day commemorates Dr. Robert Koch's 1882 discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium responsible for TB, which laid the groundwork for essential advancements in diagnosis and treatment. Despite progress, TB remains a major burden, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, affecting vulnerable groups, including those with HIV/AIDS and people living in poverty. Approximately 10 million individuals contract TB annually, with nearly 1.5 million lives lost each year. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the TB crisis, disrupting services and delaying essential care.

The theme of World TB Day 2024 is anticipated to emphasize partnerships among governments, communities, and organizations, underscoring the need for collaborative efforts to end TB as a public health threat. However, eradicating TB poses significant challenges. Social stigma often discourages people from seeking diagnosis and treatment, and the rise of multi-drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) complicates treatment, making it more costly and less effective. Additionally, many regions lack the healthcare infrastructure and trained professionals needed for effective TB management, and persistent funding shortages hinder progress in combating the disease in resource-limited areas.

The Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) is actively involved in addressing these challenges. As a network committed to promoting human development, HRDN plays a critical role in TB prevention through advocacy, education, and partnerships with local and international organizations. Its work focuses on reducing TB stigma, improving community awareness, and advocating for policy reforms that facilitate access to care in high-risk areas. By supporting initiatives to expand diagnostic, treatment, and preventive resources, HRDN amplifies global efforts to reduce TB's impact.

Moving toward a TB-free world requires collective action across sectors. Organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO), the Stop TB Partnership, and networks such as HRDN contribute to the fight against TB by promoting awareness, advancing research, and supporting community-based care programs. Through these efforts, the journey toward a world without TB becomes more attainable. World TB Day thus serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility to end TB, ensuring that those affected by this disease receive the attention, care, and respect they deserve.

QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Women Voices and Leadership (WVL) - Pakistan

The Women Voices and Leadership (WVL) program in Pakistan aims to amplify women's voices and foster leadership skills through various initiatives, promoting gender equality and empowerment across communities.



Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination

This initiative focuses on facilitating the exchange of information and best practices among stakeholders to enhance understanding and implementation of gender-related programs. Through workshops, seminars, and conferences, participants share valuable insights and experiences that contribute to the overall progress of gender equality efforts.



Gender Leadership Program (GLP)

The GLP's male training component targets men in leadership positions, aiming to engage them as advocates for gender equality. By equipping men with knowledge about gender issues and the importance of supporting women's rights, this program seeks to foster a culture of mutual respect and cooperation in addressing gender disparities.



GLP - With Women and Girls

This aspect of the GLP focuses on empowering women and girls by providing them with leadership training and development opportunities. The program encourages participants to build their confidence, leadership skills, and community engagement, ultimately contributing to a more equitable society.



GLP - Say NO to Domestic Violence

The "Say NO to Domestic Violence" campaign is a vital part of the GLP, raising awareness about domestic violence and its impacts on families and communities. Through workshops and outreach activities, the program educates participants on recognizing, preventing, and addressing domestic violence, promoting healthier relationships and environments.



Gender Awareness and Employability - Textile Programme (GIZ)

(HRDN) and GIZ launched the "Gender Empowerment and Employability" training to promote gender awareness, skill-building, and workforce inclusion for women and vulnerable groups. This three-day training covered essential topics, including gender sensitivity, harassment prevention, leadership, and psychological counseling, using interactive methods to engage over 85 participants in Lahore and Rawalpindi. HRDN appreciates GIZ's support and participants' dedication to building a diverse, inclusive workforce for Pakistan's social and economic development.

Networking, Coordination, and Outreach

“Breast Cancer Awareness Raising” Campaign Launch at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Collaboration with GBTI

This high-profile campaign launch at Aiwan-e-Sadr, in collaboration with GBTI, aimed to highlight the importance of breast cancer awareness at a national level. The event gathered key stakeholders, healthcare professionals, and community members to discuss strategies for improving breast cancer awareness and access to screening and treatment services.



Partnership with IFES Management

The partnership with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) focuses on promoting women's participation in the electoral process and enhancing their leadership roles within political systems. Collaborative efforts aim to empower women through training, advocacy, and capacity-building initiatives that foster greater gender representation in governance.



The 70th Year Celebration of POP Council

The celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Population Council marked a significant milestone in recognizing the organization's contributions to population research and advocacy. The event featured discussions on achievements, challenges, and future directions for enhancing reproductive health and family planning services.



Collaboration for Academic and Research Activities with COMSATS

This collaboration between HRDN and COMSATS focuses on fostering academic and research initiatives related to gender issues and social development. Joint efforts aim to conduct research, publish findings, and promote knowledge sharing among students, researchers, and practitioners in the field.



LSO Convention by RSPN

The Local Support Organization (LSO) Convention organized by the Rural Support Program Network (RSPN) provided a platform for community organizations to share experiences and best practices. The convention aimed to strengthen grassroots movements and enhance collaboration among local stakeholders in addressing community challenges.



“Strategic Meeting” at IRM Complex

The strategic meeting held at the IRM Complex focused on discussing and aligning organizational goals and strategies to enhance program effectiveness. Participants engaged in collaborative planning and shared insights on best practices for achieving gender equality and empowerment objectives.



“Migration and Mobility Conference” by the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

The Migration and Mobility Conference organized by ICMPD brought together experts and stakeholders to discuss the complexities of migration policies and their implications for social development. The conference emphasized the need for collaborative approaches to address migration challenges, with a focus on human rights, gender equality, and sustainable development.



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Seminar on economic development in the legislation regarding disability in Pakistan.
 - Seminar on Gender and power in digital spaces, change or a different shade.
 - Training by Oxfam.
 - Learning course on Islamic banking and finance.
 - HRDN participation in Google launch by IRM.
 - Meeting with Comsats representatives.
 - Participation in Gender, Inclusion, and Disability working group meeting at the Election Commission of Pakistan.
 - FC meeting.
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Join Us in Making a Difference

HRDN is dedicated to creating sustainable change through strategic initiatives and partnerships. We invite you to join us in our mission to empower women, engage youth, and promote sustainable development.

For more information on our activities and how you can get involved, please visit our website at www.hrdn.org.

Thank you for being a part of the HRDN community. Together, we are shaping a brighter future.

Sincerely,

The HRDN Team

Connect with Us:

- Website: www.hrdn.net
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