



ILLUME

JANUARY-MARCH 2024

**International Women's
Day**

Editor's note

As we reflect on the recent quarterly activities at HRDN, it is evident that our commitment to women's empowerment and sustainable development continues to flourish. The Women Voices and Leadership project, alongside our collaborative initiatives like the Feminist Manifesto launch and the Spring Plantation Campaign, demonstrates our proactive approach to fostering gender equity and community engagement.

The successful completion of the Gender Leadership Program and our capacity-building efforts through partnerships, such as the MoU with Fatima Jinnah Women University, highlight our dedication to nurturing future leaders. Furthermore, the Finance Committee and Board of Directors have shown exemplary governance, ensuring our financial sustainability and strategic growth. Together, these activities not only advance our mission but also strengthen the fabric of our society, paving the way for a more equitable future.



CEO MESSAGE

On this International Women's Day, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the remarkable women who inspire change and progress in our communities and beyond. This year's theme, "Embrace Equity," resonates deeply with our mission at HRDN to promote gender equality and empower women in every aspect of life. I am proud to announce the successful completion of the Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) project, implemented in collaboration with Oxfam and our dedicated partners. Over the past months, we have worked tirelessly to uplift women's voices, enhance their leadership skills, and foster an inclusive environment where they can thrive. This initiative has not only provided essential resources and training but has also created platforms for women to share their stories, advocate for their rights, and influence decision-making processes within their communities.

The WVL project has demonstrated the power of collaboration and the impact we can achieve when we unite our efforts. We have witnessed firsthand the resilience and strength of women who have transformed their lives and those around them, creating a ripple effect of empowerment. Together, we have built a foundation for lasting change, ensuring that women's voices are heard and valued.

As we celebrate International Women's Day, let us continue to champion the cause of gender equality and work towards a future where every woman has the opportunity to succeed. I invite all of you to join us in this commitment, to support and uplift one another, and to embrace equity in our everyday lives. Together, we can create a world where all women can realize their full potential.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to this vital cause.

Robeela Bangash

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



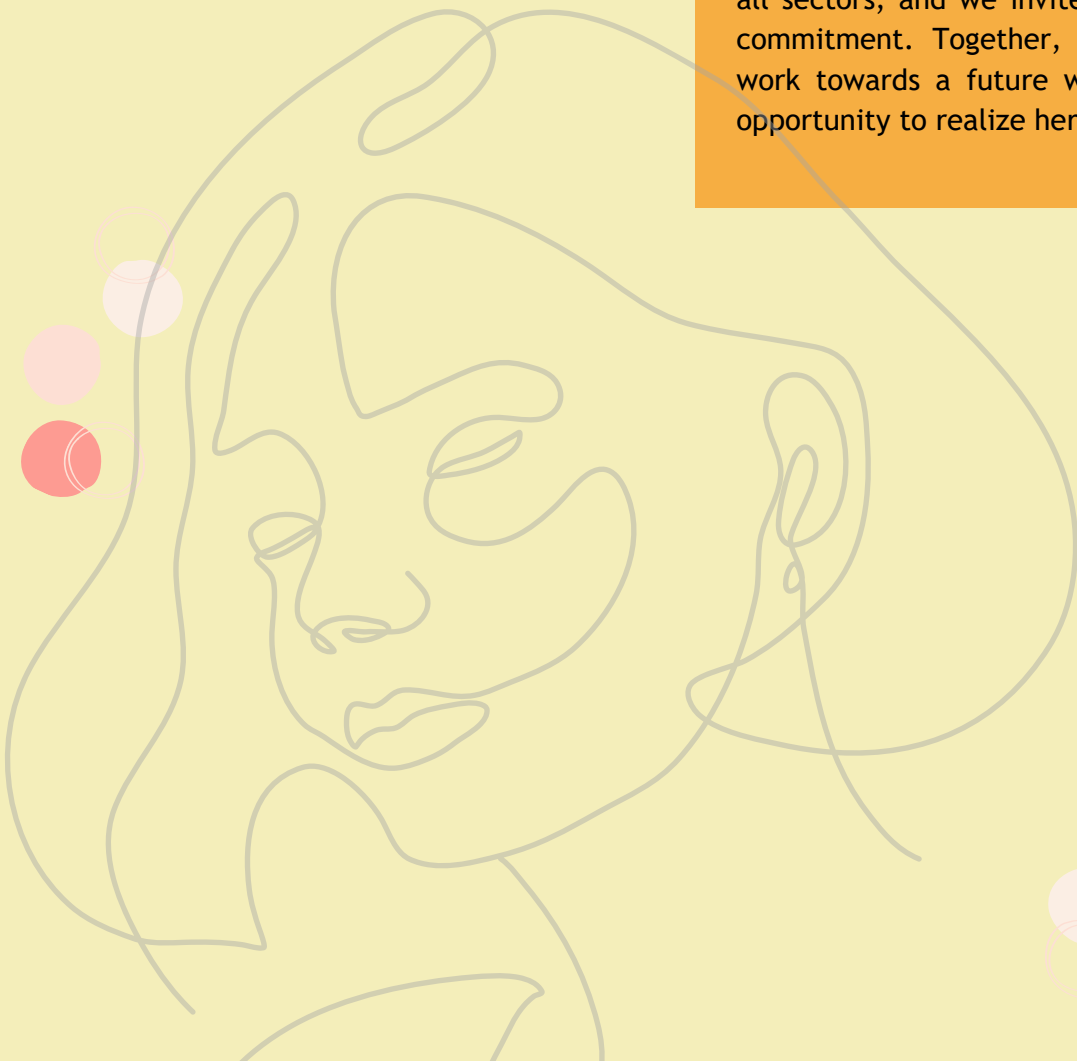
Empower a woman,
transform a community
—together, let's
embrace equity and
illuminate the path to a
brighter future for all



Women's Day!

International Women's Day, observed on March 8th each year, serves as a powerful reminder of the achievements of women around the world and the ongoing struggle for gender equality. At HRDN, we take this opportunity to reflect on our commitment to empowering women and advocating for their rights in every aspect of society. This year's theme, "Embrace Equity," resonates deeply with our mission to create an inclusive environment where women are not only recognized for their contributions but are also provided with the tools and opportunities to thrive. According to UN Women, women make up only 28% of senior management roles globally, highlighting the urgent need for gender equity to achieve sustainable development and foster resilient communities.

Over the past year, HRDN has implemented numerous initiatives aimed at promoting women's empowerment, including our involvement in the FEM Consortia and the launch of the FEM Manifesto. These initiatives focus on enhancing women's leadership skills, providing vocational training, and creating platforms for women to share their stories and advocate for their rights. Collaborations with organizations like Oxfam have been instrumental in driving these efforts, particularly through the successful completion of the Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) project, which has impacted over 10,000 women, providing them with essential resources and training. As we honor the incredible resilience and strength of women who continue to break barriers and inspire change, we acknowledge the work that lies ahead in addressing gender-based violence, which affects 1 in 3 women globally, discrimination, and unequal access to opportunities. HRDN is dedicated to advocating for policies that protect women and promote gender equality across all sectors, and we invite everyone to join us in this commitment. Together, let us embrace equity and work towards a future where every woman has the opportunity to realize her full potential.





QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Women Voices and Leadership - WVL-Pak- August 2021- March 2024

The Women Voices and Leadership - WVL Pakistan project, running from August 2021 to March 2024, aims to enhance the planning, advocacy, and visibility of Oxfam Pakistan's initiatives alongside the efforts of five Provincial Alliances and twelve Women's Rights Organizations (WROs). Through a dedicated website (wvl.org.pk), the project showcases activities and facilitates the dissemination of research findings funded by Oxfam small grants. These findings are shared at provincial and national levels, engaging academia, researchers, civil society, parliamentarians, and policymakers to promote actionable policies and impactful implementation. Spanning Pakistan's four provinces and the capital, this project is supported by Oxfam in Pakistan, ensuring a broad reach in advancing women's leadership and rights advocacy across the country.

Gender Leadership Program (GLP)

Institutionalization

The National Coordinator-WVL successfully attended and completed three core modules of the GLP training, marking a significant step toward building capacity within HRDN. The institutionalization of GLP began on September 6-14, 2023, and resumed on January 5, 2024, enabling thirty Community Resource Persons (CRPs), primarily elementary school teachers from GBTI in Attock, to complete the program. To extend GLP's impact, further planning and dissemination were carried out at both community and school levels. Twenty-five CRPs conducted 3-5 sessions in their respective communities, culminating in each trainer receiving a certificate and an incentive of Rs. 10,000 upon successful completion. Additionally, HRDN supported the Mumkin Alliance's efforts in Lahore, Punjab, through the "GLP Institutionalization" activity by facilitating GLP training for 35 students from Lahore College of Women and Punjab University in December 2023. This comprehensive approach has reinforced GLP's reach and fostered skill-building across diverse educational and community settings.



Provincial launch of Feminist Manifesto Jan 2024

HRDN, serving as the National Secretariat, played a pivotal role in facilitating the provincial launch of the Feminist Manifesto ahead of the Pakistan Election 2023. This important document was collaboratively drafted by five alliances and twelve women's rights organizations (WROs) to advocate for gender equality and women's rights. Four provincial events were held to present the Feminist Manifesto to various political parties: in Peshawar on January 17, 2024, Quetta on January 23, 2024, Karachi on January 25, 2024, and Lahore on January 29, 2024. These sessions attracted over 230 participants from a diverse range of backgrounds, including political parties such as PTI, PPP, JUI, JI, MQM, PMLN, and QWP, as well as representatives from academia, students, lawyers, civil society, and the media. The successful engagement at these events underscored the commitment to fostering a dialogue on women's rights and the importance of political accountability in advancing gender issues in Pakistan.





FEM Conference

HRDN proudly launched the Fem Consortia, spotlighting key areas impacting women in Pakistan. The event featured position papers addressing women's political empowerment, challenges faced by adolescent girls, resilience in climate change, and the critical issue of unpaid care work. As a panelist, HRDN's CEO shared insights on enhancing women's participation and resilience, advocating for actionable change. This strategic gathering united experts and stakeholders, emphasizing the urgent need for gender-responsive policies. The event marked a pivotal step in advancing women's rights and fostering a more inclusive societal framework.



Webinar: How Women's Participation Transforms Electoral Dynamics

A webinar was held on February 05, 2024. Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali-ED CPDI deliberated on "The Ripple Effect: How Women's Participation Transforms Electoral Dynamics." The timing of the webinar and the insights provided by the resource person were highly praised, with attendees anticipating their applicability to the upcoming elections in Pakistan. The event attracted over 100 participants on Zoom and the HRDN Facebook Page, underscoring the significant interest in the topic. The Board commended HRDN for its proactive efforts in organizing such important webinars, which contribute to enhancing civic engagement and promoting democratic processes in the country.



HRD
network

WEBINAR

The Ripple Effect: How Women's Participation Transforms Electoral Dynamics

MONDAY
03:00 - 04:00 pm
5-February- 2024

SPEAKER
Mukhtar Ahmad Ali-
Executive Director,
Centre for Peace and
Development
Initiatives (CPDI)

JOIN US LIVE

<https://www.facebook.com/HRDN.Net/>

WVL-Pak Close Out Ceremony Feb 27th-2024

The close-out event for the Women Voices and Leadership (WVL) Pakistan project, organized by Oxfam in February 2024, marked a significant milestone ahead of the project's formal conclusion on March 31, 2024. This event brought together all twelve Women's Rights Organizations (WROs), five alliances, donor community representatives, and civil society, highlighting a collective commitment to the project's outcomes. Participants reflected on the achievements and impact of the initiative, acknowledged stakeholder contributions, and discussed valuable lessons for future endeavors. Additionally, a Working Council of the FEM Consortium was formed, including five members, with HRDN playing a key role in upholding feminist principles. HRDN's effective management of the WVL website has been crucial in showcasing the project's feminist approach, consistently updating activities and producing monthly analytical reports. The website will remain operational until October 2024, underscoring the dedication of WVL-Pak partners to maintaining this essential resource.

Plant for Pakistan Spring Plantation Campaign

On March 12, 2024, HRDN organized the Spring Plantation Campaign in conjunction with International Women's Day. Under the theme "She Grows, She Glows," this initiative involved the donation and planting of 1,000 plants at Fatima Jinnah Women's University (FJWU) in collaboration with the Punjab Forest Department. HRDN conducts plantation drives to enhance green cover, combat climate change, and promote environmental sustainability. These initiatives are vital for improving air quality, conserving biodiversity, and combating soil erosion. Moreover, by associating women with sustainable practices and environmental stewardship, HRDN empowers them to become active participants in protecting our planet. This campaign not only contributes to a greener future but also fosters a sense of responsibility and leadership among women, highlighting the importance of their role in environmental conservation.



CAPACITY BUILDING

MoU Signing with Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU- Chakri Campus) -March 12, 2024

HRDN proudly announces the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Fatima Jinnah Women's University (FJWU). This partnership focuses on promoting youth engagement and empowering women leaders through knowledge sharing and internship opportunities for university graduates. The MOU also includes joint initiatives, such as community plantation drives, to foster environmental sustainability and raise awareness. By engaging young women in these activities, we aim to cultivate a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the environment. Both HRDN and FJWU anticipate that this collaboration will yield mutual benefits, enhancing our collective efforts toward achieving our organizational objectives. Together, we are committed to nurturing talent and driving positive change for a more equitable and sustainable future.



Healing Circle

The "Healing Circle" activity, conducted on March 21, 2024, under the Women Voices and Leadership (WVL) Project, emerged as a significant success. Facilitated by Ms. Manzeih Bano, CEO of Sahil, this session offered HRDN members a supportive environment for reflection and open discussion. Participants reported enhanced emotional resilience as a result of engaging in this collaborative experience. The Healing Circle effectively addressed both personal and collective challenges, fostering a strengthened sense of community among members. This initiative not only promoted individual well-being but also cultivated a spirit of collaboration within the HRDN network. Overall, the session contributed positively to the participants' mental health and interpersonal connections, reinforcing the project's objectives.



Training on SECP Rules & Regulations for GBRSP Board of Directors January 25, 2024

HRDN organized a week-long visit for the Board of Directors (BOD) of GBRSP. To enhance organizational understanding and explore best practices from esteemed and sustainable institutions, The delegation was guided by distinguished resource persons, including Dr. Rashid Bajwa, Dr. Roomi Saeed Hayat, Mr. Ibrar Anjum, and Mr. Salman. This visit included an insightful tour of the National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD) and a productive meeting with Mr. Israr Khan, the Director General of NCRD. Participants gained valuable insights into institutional best practices, effective organizational management strategies, and sustainable development initiatives. On January 25, 2024, HRDN further bolstered the BoD's capabilities by organizing a pivotal one-day training session on SECP Rules and Regulations. Led by Mr. Lateef Khwaja, Deputy Registrar at SECP, the training provided essential insights into compliance requirements and the responsibilities of the Board under Section 42 companies. Attendees commended the session for its clarity and practical approach, offering overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding Mr. Khwaja and the HRDN secretariat for their exemplary efforts in facilitating this impactful training.



Training on SECP Rules & Regulations for GBRSP Board of Directors January 25, 2024

HRDN organized a week-long visit for the Board of Directors (BOD) of GBRSP. To enhance organizational understanding and explore best practices from esteemed and sustainable institutions, The delegation was guided by distinguished resource persons, including Dr. Rashid Bajwa, Dr. Roomi Saeed Hayat, Mr. Ibrar Anjum, and Mr. Salman. This visit included an insightful tour of the National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD) and a productive meeting with Mr. Israr Khan, the Director General of NCRD. Participants gained valuable insights into institutional best practices, effective organizational management strategies, and sustainable development initiatives. On January 25, 2024, HRDN further bolstered the BoD's capabilities by organizing a pivotal one-day training session on SECP Rules and Regulations. Led by Mr. Lateef Khwaja, Deputy Registrar at SECP, the training provided essential insights into compliance requirements and the responsibilities of the Board under Section 42 companies. Attendees commended the session for its clarity and practical approach, offering overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding Mr. Khwaja and the HRDN secretariat for their exemplary efforts in facilitating this impactful training.

GOVERNANCE

Finance Committee (FC) Meeting on 18 March 2024



A Finance Committee (FC) meeting was convened to evaluate the financial progress of the network. This meeting served as a platform for comprehensive discussions on financial performance, resource allocation, and strategic planning. In the final FC meeting, the budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025 was meticulously reviewed and subsequently approved, ensuring it aligns with the organization's objectives and promotes financial sustainability. The committee's diligent oversight and collaborative efforts significantly reinforced fiscal responsibility and transparency within the network. This proactive approach to financial governance underscores the FC's commitment to upholding best practices in resource management, ultimately supporting the organization's overarching mission and goals.

111 BOD Meeting held on March 24th, 2024

The Board of Directors received a comprehensive update during the recent quarter at the 111th BOD meeting. This session represented a pivotal moment, showcasing the unwavering commitment of all members, particularly the Chairperson, in guiding the organization through challenging times. The frequency of these meetings underscores the BOD's dedication to transparent governance and their shared responsibility to direct the Secretariat with strategic insight. By promoting open dialogue and aligning on key objectives, these sessions empower HRDN to respond proactively to emerging challenges while upholding its governance standards. Additionally, the discussions held during the 111th BD meeting further reinforced the Board's accountability and enhanced the organization's capacity to fulfill its mission effectively. Through these engagements, the Board continues to strengthen HRDN's operational resilience and strategic direction.

Future Activities

- 23rd ATR
- Seminar at IIUI: Confidence and Resilience in Women's Journey to Success
- Training on EZ File & SECP Compliance Updates
- Finance Committee (FC) Meeting's
- 112 BOD Meeting

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
- Email: info@hrdn.net
- Phone: 051-8742215
- Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn