



# ILLUME

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024



## HRDN Silver Jubilee Celebration



# EDITOR'S NOTE

The activities and initiatives undertaken by HRDN reflect its commitment to social change, community resilience, and youth empowerment. From the impactful Youth Engagement and Resilience Initiative (YERI) Project, which focuses on countering extremism and promoting peace, to the celebration of HRDN's 25th anniversary, each event underscores the organization's role in fostering collaboration, education, and awareness across various sectors. Noteworthy efforts such as the Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, and Human Rights Day observances highlight HRDN's dedication to addressing pressing societal issues. These initiatives, coupled with strong governance and financial oversight, ensure HRDN remains a leading force in community-driven development, advocacy, and empowerment for a more inclusive, equitable future.



**Written by  
Janita Khan**



**Designed by  
Maryam Khan**





## CEO Message

As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Human Resource Development Network (HRDN), it is a moment of immense pride and reflection. Over the past two and a half decades, HRDN has grown from a shared vision into a thriving platform of collaboration, innovation, and empowerment. Our Silver Jubilee is not just a celebration of years—it is a tribute to the collective achievements of our members, partners, and supporters who have contributed to the network's remarkable journey.

A network is much more than a collection of individuals or organizations—it is a living system of connections, where relationships, knowledge, and resources come together to achieve shared goals. HRDN exemplifies the true essence of a network. By fostering collaboration and dialogue, it has provided a space for capacity-building, meaningful partnerships, and sustainable impact. The strength of any network lies in its ability to adapt, evolve, and address the challenges of its time, and HRDN continues to do so with unwavering commitment.

This year, our celebration aligns with the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a campaign that holds deep significance for HRDN's mission of promoting equity and human dignity. Gender-based violence is a barrier to progress and a stark reminder of the work that still lies ahead. As a network dedicated to human development, we reaffirm our resolve to address this pressing issue by empowering marginalized voices, challenging harmful norms, and fostering safe and inclusive spaces for all.

The Silver Jubilee is both a celebration and a call to action—a reminder of what we have achieved together and an inspiration to continue striving for a better future. As we honor our past, let us also renew our commitment to collaboration, advocacy, and innovation. Together, we can drive forward HRDN's vision of a world where every individual can live with dignity, opportunity, and respect.

With gratitude and determination,

**Robeela Bangash**





## HIGHLIGHTS



- **Empowering Youth through the Launch of the YERI Project:**

HRDN proudly launched the Youth Engagement and Resilience Initiative (YERI), actively engaging youth in Pakistan to drive peace and social harmony. This transformative project aims to counter extremism and foster community cohesion, empowering young individuals to become champions of tolerance and positive change in their communities.

- **Commemorating 25 Years at the All Members Meeting (AMM):**

Celebrated HRDN's 25-year journey of transformative impact by honoring past achievements and strategizing for a bold, impactful future.

- **Learning from the China Growth Model:**

Conducted a 9-day certificate training at Lanzhou University, providing participants hands-on experience in agriculture, infrastructure, and sustainable development strategies.

- **Promoting Breast Cancer Awareness:**

Organized a seminar focused on early detection, emotional support, and empowering communities to combat breast cancer collectively.

- **Mobilizing Change through the 16 Days of Activism Campaign:**

Engaged youth leaders and communities in taking a stand against gender-based violence, advocating for justice, equality, and a safer society.

- **Celebrating Human Rights Day:**

Empowered students through creative engagements, spotlighting the importance of human rights and inspiring youth advocacy for justice and equality.

- **Ensuring Financial Sustainability at the Finance Committee Meeting:**

Analyzed HRDN's financial health and implemented strategic fiscal planning to ensure long-term organizational sustainability.

- **Marking Progress at the 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM):**

Highlighted a year of financial growth and organizational success, setting a strong foundation for future progress.

- **Strategizing for Success at the 114th BoD Meeting:**

Reviewed key projects, celebrated HRDN's Silver Jubilee, and mapped out initiatives for continued success and growth.





## HUMAN RIGHTS DAYS

Human Rights Day, observed annually on December 10, celebrates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and underscores the universal values of dignity, freedom, and justice for all. This year's theme, "Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All," aligns closely with the Human Resource Development Network's (HRDN) mission of empowering individuals and fostering sustainable development. Through its initiatives in poverty alleviation, gender equity, education, climate adaptation, and workplace empowerment, HRDN translates the ideals of human rights into actionable solutions, creating tangible impacts at both grassroots and policy levels.

HRDN's contributions to human rights advocacy focus on promoting equity, building awareness, and driving sustainable progress. By prioritizing marginalized communities and offering inclusive platforms, HRDN empowers women and youth to become leaders in their communities. Training workshops, such as those addressing workplace harassment and leadership development, enhance understanding and capacity to uphold fundamental rights. Through partnerships with national and international organizations, HRDN integrates global best practices, ensuring that its projects uphold the principles of justice and equity. This Human Rights Day, HRDN renews its commitment to fostering a world where human rights are not just ideals but lived realities, inspiring collective action for a brighter and more inclusive future.





# QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### Youth Engagement and Resilience Initiative (YERI)

HRDN, in partnership with NACTA, the European Union, and UNODC, proudly launched the Youth Engagement and Resilience Initiative (YERI) to empower young leaders in Swat, Turbat, Mirpur Khas, and Bahawalpur. By equipping them with advocacy skills, conflict-resolution training, and digital tools for safe reporting, YERI aims to nurture a resilient Pakistan led by inclusive, peace-driven youth. From building Youth Councils to conducting social media campaigns, every effort under YERI is designed to foster tolerance, community cohesion, and positive social change.



Funded by  
the European Union



**NACTA**  
National Counter Terrorism Authority



**United Nations**  
Office on Drugs and Crime



**Youth Engagement and Resilience Initiative (YERI)**



# NETWORKING AND COORDINATION

## HRDN Celebrates 25 Years of Transformative Impact!

The 25th Anniversary of HRDN marked a grand celebration with 109 members, including founders, lifetime members, and special guests. A heartfelt tribute to a quarter-century of innovation and resilience, the event emphasized HRDN's mission and vision for the future.

### Highlights:

- **Grand Opening:**

Inspiring video showcasing milestones and achievements.

- **Leadership Addresses:**

- **Dr. Roomi S. Hayat (Chairperson):** A message of collective progress.
- **Ms. Robeela Bangash (CEO):** Celebrating a journey of growth and inclusivity.

- **Heartwarming Testimonials:** Members shared stories of personal and professional transformation.







## TESTIMONIALS

- **Mr. Anis Danish-Lifetime member:** “HRD Network helped develop organizations and it developed their human resources”
- **Mr. Farhan Mehmood-Lifetime member:** “I must appreciate that over 20 years of my membership it helped me develop my career by giving me opportunities”
- **Nighat Un Nisa-Lifetime member:** “I congratulate HRDN on its 25 years of existence”
- **Dr. Noor Fatima (BoD member)-Lifetime member:** “Over two decades I learned a lot and HRDN gave me a lot of opportunities”
- **Muhammad Zubair Qureshi-Lifetime member:** “I have been associated with HRDN since 1999 and it gave the world a new concept of developing human resources”
- **Mr. Sajjad Ismail-Lifetime member:** “HRDN provides the people with a great opportunity to network by bringing them together on one forum”
- **Abid Channa (CEO of Sukaar Foundation)-Lifetime member:** “HRDN gave one ground to trainers”
- **Ms. Fauzia Bilquis-Lifetime member:** “Congratulations to HRDN on its 25 years of journey
- **Ms. Javeria Professional member:** “HRDN helped me develop my networking skills”
- **Amjad Rasheed (CEO of Taraqee Foundation):** “HRDN developed and enhanced the capacity of people in the development sector”
- **Ms. Samina Ashraf-Lifetime member:** “Thankful to HRDN for making me learn a lot through ATRs (Annual Training Retreat)”
- **Ms. Samira Qazi-Lifetime member:** “HRDN is one of the networks that sustained its essence”
- **Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Awan-Lifetime member:** “I request young professionals to join this credible forum and learn a lot”
- **Mr. Jeram Das-Lifetime member:** “HRDN has served a lot in the social service sector”





## TESTIMONIALS

- **Mr. Muhammad Burhan Raza-Lifetime member:** “HRDN helped me learn and develop my skills”
- **Mr. Abdur Rab-Lifetime member:** “HRDN gave me networking opportunities, training, international exposure, and job opportunities”
- **Mr. Anwar Saleem Kasi (BoD member)-Lifetime member:** “HRDN gives professionals to share their experiences”
- **Mr. Mehmood Akhtar Cheema-Founder member:** “HRDN has done wonderful work in providing exposure and it remains relevant after 25 years”
- **Mr. Fahim Siddique-Lifetime member:** “HRDN is a thought becoming a vision and then reality”
- **Mr. Mukhtar Javed-Lifetime member:** “HRDN gave corporate and development sectors to come together”
- **Ms. Humera Malik (BoD member)-Lifetime member:** “HRDN has sustained even in these difficult times and is one of the few networks that have survived”
- **Mr. Usman Qazi-Lifetime member:** “HRDN became the main course for community development”
- **Ms. Ishrat Sarfraz-Lifetime member:** “I congratulate HRDN on its 25th birthday”
- **Mr. Abdul Shakoor Sial-Lifetime member:** “HRDN allowed me to gain friends and they helped me a lot through my journey”
- **Mr. Gulzar-Lifetime member:** “HRDN is a valuable network in Pakistan”
- **Ms. Eeum Wali Khan-Lifetime member:** “HRDN achieved the milestone of 25 years due to its founder members and members”
- **Mr. Muzaffar Ud Din-Lifetime member:** “I wish HRDN to play a crucial role in the development sector in the future”
- **Dr. Tahir Rasheed-Lifetime member:** “HRDN is working as a learning hub and it achieved this place through its hard work”
- **Mr. Kaleem Imam-Lifetime member:** “Well done HRDN keep the focus on your mandate and keep moving forward”
- **Mr. Gulam Rai-Lifetime member:** “HRDN helped in community development and awareness raising”
- **Dr. Roomi S. Hayat, Chairperson HRDN-Founder member:** “HRDN is a known network due to its efforts and I’m thankful to all of HRDN members for contributing to its success”



## CAPACITY BUILDING

### Certificate Training Program on the China Growth Model

HRDN collaborated with Lanzhou University for a transformative training program, where 15 participants explored China's innovative growth strategies.

#### Program Highlights:

1. **Agricultural Innovation:** Advanced potato cultivation techniques, sustainable livestock management, and yak-based product insights.
2. **Cultural Exploration:** Visits to historical landmarks, including Bingling Cave Temple and Zhongshan Bridge.
3. **BRI Event:** Discussions on CPEC's impact on mutual economic growth, projecting a 3% GDP boost for Pakistan.

#### Future Goals:

- Joint research on sustainable practices.
- Training programs for professionals.
- Promoting green community projects.

This initiative exemplified the balance of tradition, innovation, and sustainability—valuable lessons for Pakistan's growth.





## GOVERNANCE

### Finance Committee Meeting

On December 12, 2024, the Finance Committee reviewed organizational financial performance and emphasized fiscal sustainability, transparency, and strategic planning for HRDN's future growth.



### 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Held on October 28, 2023, the AGM celebrated a 42% increase in expenditures and a 57% rise in income, resulting in a net surplus of PKR 3 million. Members applauded HRDN's financial growth and accountability.





## 114th Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting

On December 23, 2024, the BoD reviewed milestone projects and approved future initiatives, including the HRDN Silver Jubilee celebration. Plans for the upcoming year were outlined, ensuring continued innovation and impact.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Leadership for women entrepreneurs (Business management skills)
- Round table conference.
- New Year Meetup.
- Seminar on International days of Education.
- International Women Day.

### 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](http://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](http://www.hrdn.net)
- Email: [info@hrdn.net](mailto:info@hrdn.net)
- Phone: 051-8742215
- Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn