



ILLUME

July-September 2025



Human Resource Development Network

Established in 1999, Registered with SECP under section 42 of Companies Act, 2017
PCP & ISO Certified

HRD NETWORK BRIEF

The Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) is a dynamic, membership-driven national platform that brings together professionals, organisations, and relevant stakeholders committed to sustainable development and capacity building. Established to promote structured collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation, HRDN has consistently played a catalytic role in advancing transformative change across multiple sectors.

With an unwavering commitment to excellence, HRDN serves as a bridge between public, private, and non-governmental entities, promoting synergies that lead to impactful interventions. By facilitating strategic partnerships, HRDN enables stakeholders to leverage collective expertise and resources to address pressing socio-economic challenges. Its initiatives span various domains, including education, health, disaster risk reduction, climate change resilience, and social development, with a particular emphasis on gender equality and youth empowerment.

One of HRDN's core strengths lies in its ability to mobilize resources and advocate for evidence-based policy solutions that drive meaningful change at both grassroots and institutional levels. Through its extensive network, HRDN fosters an inclusive environment where innovative ideas, best practices, and knowledge-sharing initiatives thrive. The organization actively engages in policy dialogues, leadership development programs, and skill-building workshops to enhance the professional capacities of individuals and institutions alike.

HRDN is also recognized for its role in implementing impactful community-driven projects, ensuring that development efforts are both sustainable and locally relevant. By integrating technology, research, and strategic advocacy into its initiatives, HRDN has established itself as a thought leader in the development sector, continuously evolving to meet the changing needs of the communities it serves.

Through its unwavering commitment, HRDN continues to shape a future where empowered individuals and resilient communities drive sustainable growth and social progress. It remains steadfast in its mission to build stronger, more connected networks that contribute to an inclusive and prosperous society.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



At HRDN, we believe that sustainable growth begins with empowerment—empowering individuals, communities, and future leaders with the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to effect lasting change. This commitment has guided our recent initiatives, including the Summer Internship Program (SIP), which provided young minds with critical real-world experience by bridging the gap between academic knowledge and professional skills.

Through hands-on projects like the "Plant for Pakistan" campaign, our interns learnt the value of community-driven environmental action, while our upcoming digital literacy sessions will equip women community resource persons with essential tools for navigating today's digital world. On the international front, our involvement in the "Water Wisdom" initiative, in collaboration with Turkish experts, exemplifies our dedication to learning from global best practices to address local challenges, particularly in water management for the Government of Balochistan. Additionally, our participation in the 8th Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) organized by IUCN highlighted the power of collaboration and youth engagement in shaping a sustainable future.

As we move forward, we remain committed to fostering empowerment as the foundation for sustainable growth, ensuring that each of our efforts, whether local or global, brings us closer to a resilient, thriving society.

Robeela Bangash

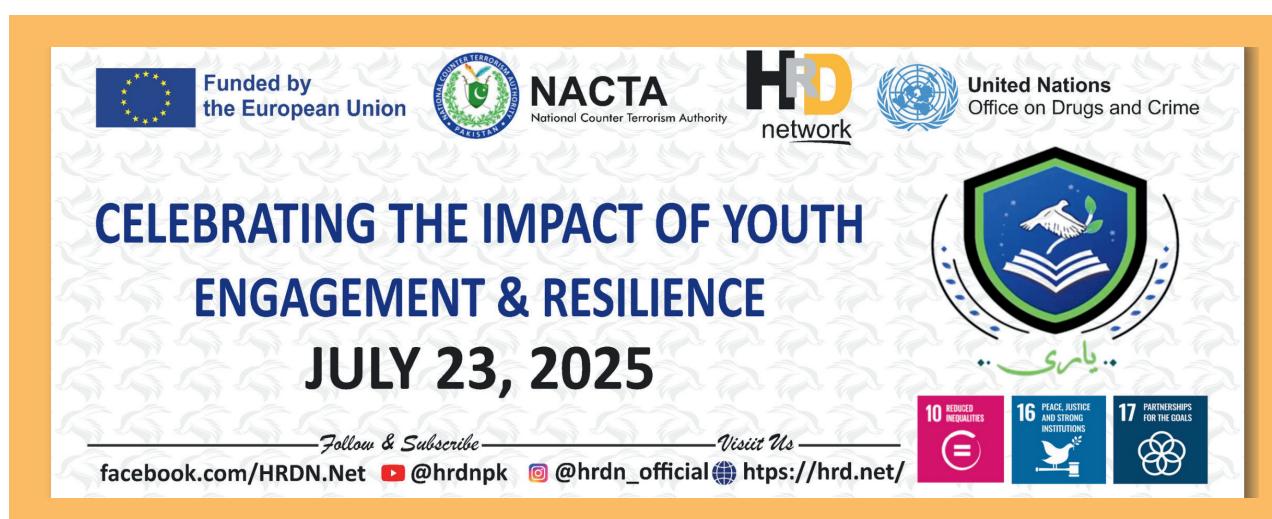
QUARTERLY PROGRESS

Youth Engagement and Resilience Initiatives (YERI)

The Youth Engagement and Resilience Initiative (YERI), funded by the European Union (EU) and supported by the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), aimed to prevent and counter violent extremism by empowering youth through leadership development, civic engagement, and positive digital participation.

During its implementation, YERI successfully established Youth Councils in four districts—Swat, Bahawalpur, Mirpurkhas, and Turbat—and trained 294 Youth Champions, with strong representation of women and minority communities. The initiative also engaged young people through dialogues, cultural activities, and sports events, promoting peace, social cohesion, and inclusion at the community level.

In addition, YERI developed and launched e-learning modules and a mobile application focused on digital literacy, leadership, and preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). Nationwide awareness and community engagement campaigns were conducted, and the project became an active member of four UNODC strategic networks, contributing to enhanced coordination and knowledge sharing.



Closing Ceremony (YERI)

The Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) successfully organised the close-out event of the Youth Engagement and Resilience Initiative (YERI) on 23 July 2025 at the Best Western Premier Hotel, Islamabad. The event convened senior government representatives, development partners, UN agencies, civil society organisations, youth leaders, and media, reflecting strong multi-stakeholder support for youth-led resilience and prevention initiatives in Pakistan.

The event was graced by the Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as Chief Guest, and was further honoured by the presence of Jemal Beker, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan.

In his address, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi commended HRDN for its leadership in advancing youth engagement, resilience, and social cohesion through YERI. He acknowledged the importance of empowering young people as agents of positive change and emphasized that initiatives such as YERI play a critical role in strengthening community resilience, countering divisive narratives, and promoting inclusive development in Pakistan. The Governor also appreciated the collaborative partnership between HRDN and its international and national partners in translating policy priorities into community-level action.

His Excellency Mr. Jemal Beker highlighted the value of youth engagement and shared perspectives on how investing in young people contributes to long-term peace, resilience, and sustainable development, underscoring the importance of cross-country learning and cooperation.



Glimpses from the project closing ceremony at Best western Hotel, Islamabad; 23rd July, 2025

CORE PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Summer Internship Programme (SIP) 2025

The Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) formally welcomed a new cohort of aspiring professionals in July 2025 as part of its Summer Internship Programme. The programme was structured to provide interns with comprehensive capacity-building opportunities and hands-on professional exposure through a range of practical assignments, mentoring sessions, and skill-development activities. Over the course of the summer, interns were engaged in structured learning modules, organisational processes, and field-based experiences aimed at strengthening their technical competencies, professional ethics, and understanding of the development sector. The initiative reflects HRDN's continued commitment to nurturing young talent and equipping emerging professionals with the skills and experience required for meaningful participation in the workforce.



Glimpses from the engaging session of The Summer Internship Program 2025

Punjab Urban Land System Enhancement (PULSE)

The HRDN proudly participated in a pivotal Focus Group Discussion under the Punjab Urban Land system Enhancement (PULSE) Project, supported by the World Bank and the Government of Punjab. This multistakeholder dialogue aimed to strengthen land governance through digitized records, parcel-based registration, and inclusive, community-centered mechanisms. Ms. Robeela Bangash, CEO of HRDN, contributed key insights on digital transformation, participatory governance, and the importance of gender-inclusive land rights.



Glimpses from the Focus Group Discussion (PULSE); 1st July 2025

PLANT FOR PAKISTAN (PLANTATION DRIVE)

Plantation Drive: GREEN LEGACY INITIATIVE-ETHIOPIA

HRDN Pakistan proudly participated and donated fruit plants in a plantation drive on 4th August 2025, organised by the Embassy of Ethiopia in Islamabad, supporting Ethiopia's **Green Legacy** Initiative. The event was attended by Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik, diplomats, government officials and civil society representatives. HRDN remains committed to climate action and will continue engaging youth and communities in future plantation initiatives.



Glimpses from Ethiopian Embassy's Plantation drive; 4th August, 2025

Plantation Drive: National Rural Support Program (NRSP)

HRDN, in collaboration with NRSP Rawalpindi Region, organised the Plant for Pakistan Plantation Drive on 8th and 18th August 2025 in Tameer ICT. The initiative fostered meaningful engagement between community youth and HRDN Summer Interns, who collectively participated in plantation activities to promote environmental sustainability.



Glimpses from NRSP's Plantation drive on 8th, 18th August, 2025

Plantation Drive: Capital Development Authority (CDA)

On 21st August 2025, the Capital Development Authority (CDA), in collaboration with the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad and HRDN, launched the “**Plant Fraternity**” initiative at Fatima Jinnah Park, Islamabad, to promote bilateral cooperation on climate action. The event brought together Ethiopian officials, CDA representatives and youth participants from HRDN in a joint plantation drive. Ethiopian Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula highlighted the Green Legacy Programme and Ethiopia’s support for Pakistan in addressing climate challenges. CDA’s DG Environment Awais Tarar reaffirmed Islamabad’s commitment to afforestation, while HRDN CEO Ms. Robeela Bangash emphasised youth leadership in climate action



Glimpses from the CDA’s Plantation Drive at F9 Park Islamabad; 21st August, 2025

Plantation Drive: Ghazi Brotha Taraqiati Idara (GBTI)



Glimpses from GBTI’s Plantation drive at Haripur; 5th September, 2025

HRDN, in collaboration with GBTI, continued with its plantation drives, engaging communities, teachers, and students to advance inclusive climate action. The “Ek Shajar, Ek Beti” initiative in schools highlighted the central role of girls and women in environmental stewardship.

ETHIO-PAKISTAN GREEN DIALOGUE

HRDN, along with its group of interns, participated in the Ethio-Pakistan Green Dialogue held at COMSTECH on August 18, 2025. The event brought together youth from Ethiopia and Pakistan to facilitate an exchange of experiences and best practices, with a particular focus on Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative. The dialogue was attended by Chairman Senate Mr Yousaf Raza Gillani as Chief Guest and featured participation from ambassadors, representatives of academia, UN agencies, the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce, and civil society, highlighting the significance of collaboration and partnerships in advancing sustainability and climate action.



Glimpses from the Ethio-Pak Green Dialogue at COMSTECH; 18th August 2025

Plantation Drive: Climate Action Forum (CAF)

As a member of the Climate Action Forum (CAF), HRDN continued its engagement in plantation drives, reinforcing collective climate action and environmental stewardship.

The initiative builds on HRDN's ongoing commitment to nature-based solutions and sustained climate-responsive practices.



Glimpses from CAF's Plantation Drive on Trail 7; 4th September, 2025

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) participated in the Marka-e-Haq and Pakistan's 78th Independence Day celebrations held at the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Secretariat, Islamabad, on 12 August 2025. The event was attended by President FPCCI Mr Atif Ikram Sheikh; former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General (R) Zubair Mahmood Hayat; Chairman NDMA Lt Gen. (R) Umar Mahmood Hayat; DC Rawalpindi; FPCCI Vice President Mr Tariq Khan Jadoon; Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman Coordination Capital Office; representatives of the Women's Chamber of Commerce; and other distinguished participants.

Through its participation, HRDN reaffirmed its commitment to Pakistan's national development, unity, and resilience, with a continued focus on advancing sustainable growth through human resource development.



Glimpses from Independence Day Celebrations; 12 August, 2025

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & OUTREACH

HRDN continued to advance its role as a trusted convener and strategic partner through targeted engagements with national institutions, UN agencies, diplomatic missions, and multi-stakeholder platforms. These interactions strengthened coordination, informed policy dialogue, and reinforced collaborative action across humanitarian response, youth engagement, peacebuilding, and economic inclusion.

Highlights:

GBV Sub-Working Group (UNFPA) July 3, 2025



Engagement on GBV-SWG workplan development, PSEA alignment, and service mapping.

Monsoon Preparedness Coordination (NDMA) July 3, 2025



HRDN's participation in national coordination discussions on monsoon preparedness and risk mitigation.

Pakistan Wildlife Protection Awards July 31st 2025-SLF



Standing for wildlife, conservation, and collective responsibility

UNODC Training Engagements August 5-6, 2025



Participation as a strategic partner in UNODC-led training initiatives on prevention and resilience.

National Conference on Education in Emergencies-NDMA August 8, 2025



Meaningful engagement and contributing to collective action for resilient education systems.

Sports for Peace - Strategic Dialogue August 16, 2025



High-level engagement on leveraging sports as a tool for peacebuilding and social cohesion.

Community Resilience - Training of Trainers (UNODC) August 18-20, 2025



Capacity building on the Sports for Community Resilience Manual.

Youth & Early Warning Systems Workshop August 21-22, 2025



Workshop on building prevention frameworks and strengthening youth engagement in early warning systems.

Youth Peace Champions Training August 25-29, 2025



Training workshop aimed at empowering youth peace champions with leadership and prevention skills.

GBV in Emergencies (UNFPA at NDMA) August 27-29, 2025



Engagement in policy dialogue supporting SMEs and inclusive economic development.

Ethiopian New Year Celebrations - September 8, 2025



Enkutatash celebrations— HRDN welcoming the Ethiopian New Year with culture, warmth, and goodwill.

Silverpreneurs 2025 - FAID & IWCCI September 9, 2025



Participation in initiatives promoting entrepreneurship and economic inclusion.

COLLABORATION & COORDINATION MEETINGS

On 7 August 2025 Ms. Robeela Bangash CEO-HRDN, along with Ms. Asma Ijaz (Programme Manager), met Sahibzada Ghulam Mohiuddin, CEO of TVO, at the TVO office to explore strategic collaboration and shared development priorities.



Glimpse from the meetup; 7th August 2025

On 21 August 2025, Ms. Robeela Bangash CEO-HRDN and Mr. Ismail, HRDN Climate & Environment Advisor, met Prof. Dr. Long during his visit to Pakistan. The discussion focused on future collaborations under the MoU, opening avenues to jointly advance sustainability and climate resilience.



Glimpse from the meetup; 21st August 2025

GOVERNANCE

117th Board Meeting

The 117th Board of Directors meeting of HRDN was held on September 25, 2025, at the IRM Complex, under the chairmanship of Dr. Roomi S. Hayat. The meeting focused on strategic direction, institutional strengthening, and aligning governance priorities to enhance HRDN's national impact and long-term sustainability.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Annual General Meeting
- International Day of Rural Women
- Certificate Training Course
- International Day of Tolerance
- 16 Days of Activism
- 24th ATR 2025
- 26th Annual Members Meeting
- 118th BOD meeting

Thank you for reading!



Human Resource Development Network

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