

CONNECTING PEOPLE. BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS. CREATING IMPACT.



**A quarter of
contribution
collaboration, learning
and action across
Pakistan's development**



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Three months. Many conversations. One shared purpose.

Some quarters are measured by calendars.

Others are better measured by the conversations they create.

For HRDN, January to March 2026 was a quarter of connections – between people, organizations, ideas and opportunities.

The first quarter has given us plenty to talk about. From green initiatives and governance conversations to women's leadership, from community empowerment to new partnerships, the quarter brought together a wide range of voices working towards a more inclusive and resilient Pakistan.

This newsletter is not simply a record of meetings and events. It is a snapshot of how a network moves – one conversation leads to a partnership, a partnership creates an opportunity, and an opportunity can eventually translate into impact for communities.

You'll also find a few numbers along the way – from new Lifetime Members to thousands of saplings planted. But numbers only tell part of the story. Behind each one is a conversation, a collaboration or a commitment that helps move development work forward.



So, grab a cup of chai and take a quick tour through HRDN's first quarter of 2026.

Happy reading!

The Editorial Team

HRD Network



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

A NETWORK IS ONLY AS STRONG AS THE PEOPLE BEHIND IT.

As we move towards the end of our first quarter, I have been made familiar with the fact that meaningful development is rarely the achievement of one organization or one individual. For HRDN, our network represents a foundation built on relationships, shared knowledge, and collaborative teamwork.

During the past three months, HRDN continued to strengthen this role — engaging with government institutions, development partners, private sector and civil society while creating opportunities for our members to contribute, connect and grow. But behind every meeting, workshop, plantation drive and policy conversation are the people who make the HRDN network what it is, are our members. Through HRDN, organizations and professionals gain access not only to a network, but to opportunities for collaboration, learning, visibility and meaningful participation in national and international spaces. For some of our organizational members, HRDN also opens doors to international exposure and their first-ever international learning and networking opportunities.



As we move into the next quarter, I invite our members to do more than simply stay connected. Engage with the network. Share your expertise. Introduce new ideas. Collaborate with fellow members. And help us create opportunities for others.



Because when one member grows, the network grows with them. And when the network grows stronger, our collective ability to serve communities grows stronger too.

Here's to another quarter of learning, partnership and impact.

Robeela Bangash
Chief Executive Officer
HRD Network

COLLABORATION

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Collaboration remains at the heart of HRDN's work. During the quarter, the Network engaged with government institutions, civil society organizations, development and the private sector to identify opportunities for joint action and strengthen the ecosystem for rights-based development.



STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On January 15th, HRDN held a meeting with Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR) to discuss the development of an institutional partnership between HRDN and the Ministry.

An MoU is in process to facilitate coordination and collaboration on inclusive social welfare, community protection and rights-based development, while creating meaningful opportunities for action through civil society networks. The partnership aims to strengthen outreach and translate shared priorities into practical impact.

The engagement strengthened institutional coordination between HRDN and the MOHR around inclusive social welfare and community protection. Through the MoU, a stronger bridge between government and civil society networks can be built.



The meeting explored potential collaboration in community empowerment, teacher capacity building, education and skills-led social development initiatives. The discussion reflected HRDN's continued effort to connect institutional capacities with community-level needs.

By combining the institutional expertise with community-focused initiatives, the partnership can support more sustainable social development.

EXPLORING COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT WITH MOAWIN FOUNDATION

HRDN also engaged with the Moawin Foundation Pakistan team on January 8th led by Rear Admiral (R) Mirza Foad Amin Baig, CEO

CONNECTING WITH THE START NETWORK

The 4th General Assembly of Ready Pakistan / Start Network in Islamabad was held on January 21st. HRDN engaged with the Start Network UK Management Team to explore opportunities for collaboration through HRDN's strong membership base.

The engagement focused particularly on women's inclusion and resilient communities, reinforcing the importance of networks in connecting local organizations with wider humanitarian and development platforms.



STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES WITH CARITAS PAKISTAN

On February 20th, HRDN visited the Caritas Pakistan Islamabad Office, where Ms. Robeela Bangash, CEO HRDN, met with Mr. Amjad Gulzar, Executive Director, Caritas Pakistan.

The meeting explored avenues for mutual collaboration and potential joint initiatives. The visit also provided an opportunity to learn more about Caritas Pakistan's institutional capacities and facilities and identify areas where these strengths could contribute to future partnerships. Such engagements strengthen HRDN's ability to connect professional knowledge with sustainable development priorities.



CONNECTING WITH THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK

HRDN met with Mr. Muhammad Ali Yazdani, HRDN Professional Member and representative of the Islamic Development Bank on March 4th.



The meeting explored future avenues of collaboration and opportunities for impactful development initiatives. The engagement also highlighted the value of HRDN's professional membership network in bringing expertise, experience and new perspectives into the development sector.





PARTNERING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

On March 10th, HRDN met with the Mobilink Microfinance Bank team to explore opportunities for training women farmers on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) in flood-affected areas.

The proposed initiative reflects the potential of public-private and development partnerships to connect financial-sector resources with community resilience, women's empowerment and climate adaptation. As a result, women can contribute to stronger livelihoods and community recovery.

DEVELOPMENT SECTOR & CHAMBERS INTERFACE

CREATING SPACES FOR DIALOGUE, COLLABORATION AND SHARED IMPACT

HRDN continues to strengthen its engagement with chambers and institutional platforms, creating opportunities for cross-sector dialogue, collaboration and resource mobilisation in support of development priorities.

HRDN & FPCCI

HRDN's membership at the Standing Committee on Corporate & Multinational Companies Affairs – FPCCI further strengthens the Network's engagement with the private sector.

This platform creates opportunities to:

- Promote public-private partnerships for development and CSR collaboration.
- Connect corporate-sector resources with community development needs.
- Represent the development sector in corporate policy dialogue.
- Enable resource mobilization and innovative partnerships.

Through stronger engagement with the corporate sector, HRDN is working to create new pathways for collaboration, resource mobilization and community impact.

THE FEDERATION OF PAKISTAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
وفاقہ پاکستان کے تجارتی و صنعتی

FPCCI/SC: ICT, Corporate & Multinational Companies Affairs/2025
12th June 2025
Updated

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NOTIFICATION
MEMBERS OF FPCCI FEDERAL CAPITAL (ICT) STANDING COMMITTEE ON CORPORATE & MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES AFFAIRS FOR THE YEAR 2025
FPCCI is pleased to confirm the following as members of FPCCI Federal Capital (ICT) Standing Committee on "Corporate & Multinational Companies Affairs" for the year 2025.

1	Prof. Dr. Joharia Ashar	Parthodani Polyalloys & Academy, Rawalpindi	Member
2	Ms. Afa Shabbir	Alexandria Restaurant, Islamabad	Member
3	Syed Muhammad Mehdi Raza	Maplin Communications, Islamabad	Member
4	Mr. Amjad Ali	Galaxy Jobs Junction (BMC-Pvt) Ltd, Islamabad	Member
5	Ms. Samiyah Sahal	SS Collection, Islamabad	Member
6	Mr. Nooman Shamin Khan	Amson Vaccines and Pharma Pvt. Ltd, Islamabad	Member
7	Mr. Aftab Rahman	White Rose Trading International Pvt. Ltd, Islamabad	Member
8	Ms. Saima Sukhera	Al-Majara Foods Pvt. Ltd, Rawalpindi	Member
9	Mr. Muhammad Ishaque	Abbasi & Sons Real Estate & Builders, Islamabad	Member
10	Mr. Asim Akhbar	Progress Kings, Islamabad	Member
11	Mr. Rubenla Bangash	HRD Network, Islamabad	Member
12	Ms. Aliya Akhla	Margalla Tribune, Islamabad	Member
13	Mian Muhammad Usman	Ibrahim Marketing, Islamabad	Member
14	Ms. Sharmila Ambreen	Afzal Marquess, Islamabad	Member

We trust you and your team will spare time for achieving the objectives of the Committee.
Best Regards,

Amjad Qureshi
Addl. Secretary General

Note: This notification of members is being issued on the recommendation and good trust of the Convener of the subject Committee. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) neither accepts no responsibility for any dispute or financial liability arising from any of the information from any Court of Law, or otherwise, Members or Business Houses.

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ENGAGING WITH RCCI

On January 21st, HRDN engaged in constructive deliberations with Mr. Usman Shaukat, President RCCI, reaffirming the Network's commitment to collaborative leadership and shared impact.

The engagement built upon an earlier interaction in October 2025, highlighting the importance of continued dialogue between development actors and chamber institutions in advancing inclusive and sustainable development.

PARTICIPATION & REPRESENTATION

BRINGING CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVES TO NATIONAL PLATFORMS

HRDN's role goes beyond organizational partnerships. The Network actively participates in national forums where important conversations around governance, resilience, human rights and development take place.



NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PARTNERSHIPS & SUSTAINABILITY IN PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

On January 13–14, HRDN participated in the National Workshop on Partnerships & Sustainability in Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE).

The Network showcased the YERI model, highlighting youth-led prevention, inclusive engagement and sustainable partnerships as important approaches to preventing violent extremism.

The workshop provided an opportunity to share HRDN's experience while learning from other actors working on prevention, inclusion and community resilience.



PAKISTAN GOVERNANCE FORUM 2026

HRDN participated in the Pakistan Governance Forum 2026 which was held on February 26th. It was convened by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

The session on the NFC Award sparked important dialogue around fiscal equity and inter-provincial coordination. The Forum also provided an opportunity for HRDN to engage with senior policymakers and political leaders and reconnect with partners and colleagues from across the development sector, including representatives from UNDP.

Participation in such platforms allows HRDN to remain connected to national policy discussions while bringing the perspectives and experiences of civil society into wider governance conversations.



GBV WORKING GROUP – STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS

On March 3rd, HRDN participated in the GBV Working Group Quarterly Meeting, organized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and UNFPA. The meeting reviewed coordination mechanisms, partner updates and preparedness for upcoming monsoon contingency planning. HRDN contributed to discussions on GBV service mapping, response gaps, lessons from the 2025 flood response and initial priorities for the 2026 GBV action plan.

Through such platforms, HRDN continues to contribute to coordinated, informed and preparedness-focused responses to humanitarian challenges.



FEATURE EVENT

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026

CELEBRATING WOMEN. CHAMPIONING COMMITMENT.

International Women's Day is more than a date on the calendar. It is an opportunity to pause, celebrate women's achievements, acknowledge the challenges that remain, and — most importantly — renew our commitment to creating a more inclusive future.

On 27 March 2026, HRDN brought this spirit to life through a major International Women's Day (IWD) 2026 celebration, bringing together civil society organisations, development partners, community representatives and advocates for women's empowerment.

The event was organised in collaboration with a diverse group of partners:

IRM | Caritas Pakistan | TVO | SIF | AKRSP/AKDN/GAC | COPAIR | Future Tech | GBTI | GBRSP | RCCI | Ministry of Human Rights



A ROOM FULL OF WOMEN'S STORIES

The event brought together women and allies from different backgrounds, organizations and communities — creating a space where experiences could be shared, achievements celebrated and the importance of women's participation placed firmly in the spotlight.

From community-level work to institutional leadership, the event reflected an important reality:

There is no single story of women's empowerment.

There are thousands.

A woman building a livelihood.

A young woman finding her voice.

A professional leading an organization.

A community worker creating change on the ground.

A student imagining a different future.

Each story adds another piece to the larger picture.



FROM CELEBRATION TO COMMITMENT

One of the highlights of the event was the emphasis on commitment.

Because celebrating women's achievements is important — but creating the conditions for more women to achieve, lead and participate is even more important.

The event brought partners together around a shared understanding that women's empowerment requires continued collaboration, opportunity and collective action.

And that is where networks like HRDN can make a difference.

WHEN ORGANISATIONS COME TOGETHER, COMMITMENTS CAN BECOME ACTION.

A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

The scale of the event was also a reflection of the power of collaboration.

With 11 partner organizations/institutions coming together alongside HRDN, the celebration demonstrated how diverse organizations can unite around a shared cause.

- **ONE EVENT**
- **MANY ORGANISATIONS**
- **ONE SHARED MESSAGE**

Women's empowerment is everyone's responsibility.





THE TAKEAWAY

International Women's Day may be celebrated once a year. But equality, inclusion and women's empowerment cannot be seasonal.
THE CELEBRATION ENDS.

THE COMMITMENT CONTINUES. For HRDN, the event was not simply about marking IWD 2026.

It was about strengthening the conversation, celebrating the women already creating change and encouraging more collective action for the women who will shape what comes next.

COMMUNITY ACTION

TURNING PARTNERSHIPS INTO ACTION ON THE GROUND

HRDN's network is ultimately about creating meaningful change at the community level. During the quarter, environmental action provided a strong example of how government, civil society, students, communities and other stakeholders can come together around a shared objective.



PLANT FOR PAKISTAN | PUNJAB GREEN INITIATIVE

The first quarter saw significant engagement in the Plant for Pakistan – Punjab Green Initiative, with HRDN supporting plantation and climate-resilience efforts.

5,000 Saplings for a Greener Punjab

In Chichawatni, District Sahiwal, 5,000 eco-friendly saplings were planted, with 100 students from local educational institutions actively participating on February 9.

The activity brought together civil society and media representatives and was graced by Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sandheela, Chief Conservator of Forests (South Zone), Multan and HRDN Lifetime Member.

The initiative reflected a shared commitment to climate resilience and the vision of a Sarsabz Punjab.



ENGAGING WITH THE PUNJAB FOREST DEPARTMENT

On February 12, HRDN engaged with the Punjab Forest Department team as part of the Plant for Pakistan initiative. The meeting brought together forest officials, including representatives from Rawalpindi and Kahuta, to strengthen coordination around environmental action. Closer institutional collaboration can help align HRDN's community network with broader environmental restoration and climate-resilience efforts.

PLANTATION DRIVE AT FAISAL HILLS, TAXILA

On February 14, HRDN participated in a large-scale plantation drive at Faisal Hills, Taxila, organized by the Punjab Forest Department under the Green Punjab / Plant for Pakistan initiative.



The campaign aims to plant approximately 500,000 saplings during 2026 across the Margalla Hills region, bringing together government officials, corporate representatives, students, civil society organizations and local communities.

For HRDN, environmental action is not separate from community resilience. Healthy ecosystems, engaged communities and collaborative institutions are all part of building a more resilient Pakistan.

ADVOCACY & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

SHARING EXPERIENCE, STRENGTHENING PRACTICE

HRDN continued to contribute its experience and institutional knowledge to national conversations on resilience, prevention and sustainable development.



WOMEN AS ARCHITECTS OF RESILIENCE

HRDN participated in the national conference “Women as Architects of Resilience,” organized by UNODC on January 26.

The CEO of HRDN participated as a panelist in the session on “CSOs’ Perspectives on Women in PVE & Community Resilience.” Drawing on HRDN’s experience in community-based prevention and resilience-building, the participation provided an opportunity to bring practical civil society perspectives into discussions on women’s role in preventing violent extremism and strengthening resilient communities. The platform strengthened the visibility of women’s role as active contributors to safer, more resilient communities.



FROM COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE TO NATIONAL DIALOGUE

Across the quarter, HRDN’s participation in the PVE workshop, the Women as Architects of Resilience conference, the GBV Working Group and the Pakistan Governance Forum demonstrated a consistent approach: bringing practical community and civil society perspectives into broader national conversations.

MEMBERSHIP

GROWING A NETWORK OF EXPERTISE AND OPPORTUNITY

A strong membership base remains one of HRDN's greatest assets. During the quarter, the Network continued to strengthen its professional and institutional community.



WELCOMING NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

On February 18, HRDN awarded Lifetime Membership Certificates to professionals bringing expertise across project management, disaster risk management and programme coordination:

- Mr. Nasir Hussain – Senior Project Management & Disaster Risk Management
- Mr. Imran Ayub – Disaster Risk Management & Programme Coordination
- Ms. Nadia Rasheed – Senior Project Management & Disaster Risk Management
- Ms. Mir Aroosa Rashid – Development & Programme Coordination



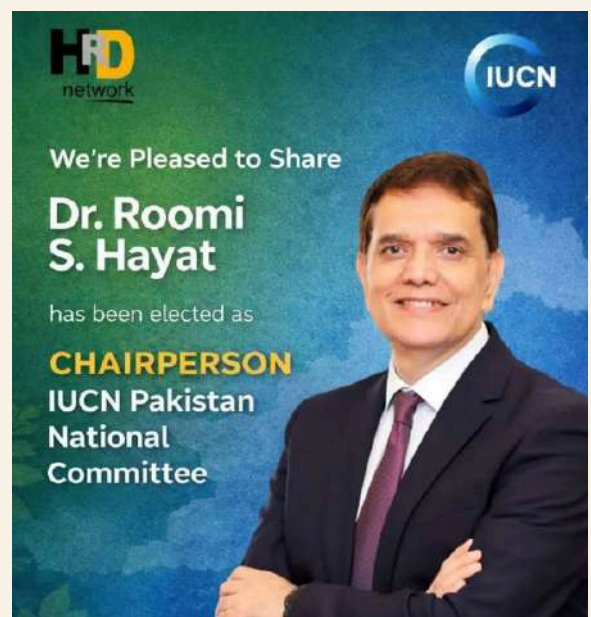
Their diverse professional backgrounds strengthen HRDN's pool of knowledge and experience and add further value to the Network's ability to connect expertise with development opportunities.

LEADERSHIP & NETWORK RECOGNITION

DR. ROOMI S. HAYAT ELECTED CHAIRPERSON OF IUCN PAKISTAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

HRDN is proud to share that Dr. Roomi S. Hayat, Chairperson HRDN, was elected Chairperson of the IUCN Pakistan National Committee for the 2026–2027 term on February 19.

The appointment reflects the continued recognition of leadership and expertise within HRDN's network and provides an important platform for contributing to conversations around conservation, sustainability and environmental priorities in Pakistan.





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