



YEAR BOOK
2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
ISLAMABAD

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MESSAGE

SENATOR AZAM NAZEER TARAR FEDERAL MINISTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

It is with great pride that Ministry of Human Rights have taken significant steps to ensure the protection of human rights for all citizens, particularly vulnerable groups, through policy reforms, legislative advancements, and targeted initiatives.

One of the key milestones achieved during FY 2023-24 was the legislative measures aimed at strengthening protections for marginalized communities, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and minorities. The Ministry of Human Rights played a pivotal role in advocating for legal frameworks that reinforce the principles of equality, dignity, and justice.

The launch of the Awaz App marks a significant step towards ensuring immediate support for victims of human rights violations and digital complaint management systems have improved grievance redressal mechanisms.

Another milestone achieved during FY 2023-24 was the accreditation of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) with A-Status by the “Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)” in May 2024. This international recognition highlights Pakistan’s commitment towards protection and promotion of human rights.

Recognizing the importance of human rights awareness, Ministry of Human Rights launched nationwide awareness campaigns to educate the public on their rights and available legal remedies. Furthermore, our collaborations with international organizations and stakeholders have reinforced our commitment to aligning national policies with global human rights standards.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all stakeholders, including government institutions, civil society organizations, and international partners, for their support in advancing the human rights agenda. We remain committed to advancing the rights of all individuals, ensuring that Pakistan upholds its constitutional and international obligations while fostering an inclusive and just society.



FOREWORD

**MR. ALLAH DINO KHOWAJA
SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

I am pleased to present the Year Book 2023-24, encapsulating our key achievements and progress over the past year. The Year Book reflects our relentless efforts to create a more equitable and just society through policy interventions, legislative advancements, and enhanced institutional frameworks.

During this period, the Ministry formulated key policies addressing critical human rights issues, including National Policy on Ending Violence against Women and National Strategy for Male Involvement in addressing gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, gender equality, rights of persons with disabilities, rights of senior citizens, rights of transgender persons etc. Our focus on legal and administrative reforms has led to the introduction of progressive laws and amendments aimed at strengthening protections for vulnerable segments of society.

To ensure the effective implementation of human rights initiatives, we have reinforced our institutional capacity by modernizing grievance redressal mechanisms and strengthening coordination with provincial human rights departments.

The Ministry of Human Rights remains committed to ensuring the protection, promotion, and fulfillment of human rights for all citizens of Pakistan. We will continue our efforts to strengthen legal frameworks, enhance institutional capacities, and promote a culture of human rights awareness and respect across the country.

I express my sincere appreciation to our dedicated team, partner organizations, and all stakeholders who have contributed to the progress made so far. Together, we will continue our pursuit of a more just and rights-oriented society.

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1. **Ministry of Human Rights** was established in 1995. It was merged twice with the Ministry of Law and Justice in 1996 and 2013. MoHR was separated from Ministry of Law and Justice and established again as a separate Ministry on 23-11-2015.

2. **Mandate of Ministry of Human Rights** is to set up and strengthen institutional mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights in the country as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 and in line with Pakistan's national and international human rights obligations. The overarching mandate of the Ministry is to protect and improve the human rights situation in the country through various interventions and create an inclusive, just and rights-based society by collaborating with relevant stakeholders, advocating for legal reforms, raising awareness and providing support and assistance to individuals and communities whose rights may be violated or marginalized. These objectives are primarily obtained through legislative measures, policy interventions, launching of various programs and projects, involving educational institutions for teaching of human rights and provision of facilities for professional and technical training relating to human rights issues.

3. **Vision of Ministry of Human Rights** is to align all its initiatives with the Principles of Policy as laid down in the Constitution of Pakistan that guide the governance and decision-making processes in the country. These principles, are considered fundamental guidelines for the government. However, a brief introduction of Key Principles related to MoHR are as under:

(Article 34) - Full Participation of Women in National Life: The Constitution of Pakistan emphasizes gender equality and protection of women's rights. The Ministry of Human Rights works to eliminate gender-based discrimination, violence against women and promote women's empowerment through legislative measures, awareness campaigns and support services.

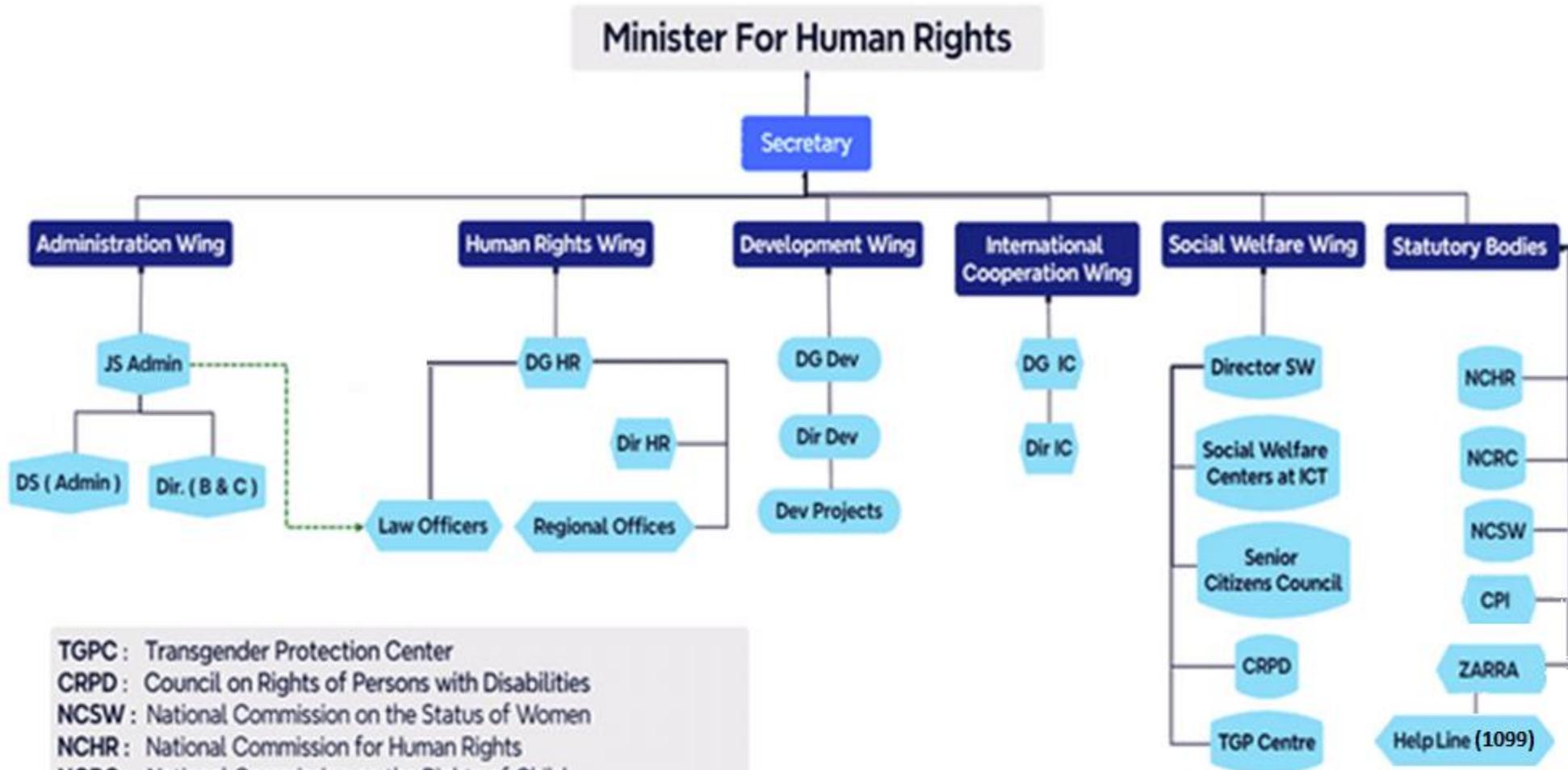
(Article 36) - Protection of Minorities: The Constitution of Pakistan guarantees the rights of religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities. The Ministry of Human Rights is responsible for safeguarding and promoting the rights of minorities, addressing discrimination, and fostering a culture of inclusivity and tolerance. These objectives are achieved through various programs and awareness-raising interventions.

(Article 37) - Promotion of Social Justice: The Constitution of Pakistan, inter alia, emphasizes the promotion of social justice and equal opportunities. The Ministry of Human Rights works towards ensuring that all citizens have equal access to justice, education, healthcare, and social services without discrimination that may either be based on gender, race, religion, or disability.

4. KEY FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

1. Review of human rights situation in the country including implementation of laws, policies and measures.
2. Coordination of activities of Ministries, Divisions and Provincial Governments in respect of human rights, and facilitation functions relating to human rights.
3. Initiatives for harmonization of legislation, regulations and practices with the international human rights covenants and agreements to which Pakistan is a party and monitoring their implementation.
4. Obtaining information, documents and reports, on complaints and allegations of human rights violations, from Ministries, Divisions, Provincial Governments and other agencies.
5. Referring and recommending investigations and inquiries in respect of any incident of violation of human rights, including rights of disadvantaged and child rights.
6. Pursuing or defending issues, complaints, representations and matters for and against Pakistan relating to human rights before any official or non-Governmental organizations, body or forum in Pakistan and, in consultation with Foreign Affairs Division, before any international organization and foreign Government or non-Governmental organization.
7. Representation of Pakistan in international bodies, organizations and conferences relating to human rights in consultation and conjunction with Foreign Affairs Division.
8. Developing and conducting information programmes to foster public awareness about human rights including the rights of labour women and children and laws and remedies available to them.
9. Formulating programmes for teaching of human rights at educational institutions.
10. Provision of facilities for professional and technical training at national and international level relating to human rights issues.
11. Administrative control of the Tribunal for disadvantaged persons (defunct)
12. Human Rights NGOs
13. Representing Pakistan at international and bilateral level, involving all gender related matters;
14. Administration of the National Commission on the status of Women Act, 2012 (VIII of 2012).
15. Administration of the National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012.
16. Administration of the National Commission for Child Welfare and Development Resolution, 1981.
17. Social Welfare, development and rehabilitation of children and disabled in the Federal area.
18. Training and education of disabled in Islamabad.
19. Dealing and agreements with other countries and international organizations in the field of social welfare.
20. Awards of—
 - i. President's Medal Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah; and
 - ii. President's Medal Mohtarma Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

ORGANOGRAM



TGPC : Transgender Protection Center
 CRPD : Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 NCSW : National Commission on the Status of Women
 NCHR : National Commission for Human Rights
 NCRC : National Commission on the Rights of Child
 CPI : Child Protection Institute
 ZARRA : Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency

5. WINGS/DEPARTMENTS/COMMISSIONS OF THE MINISTRY

Mandate of the Ministry is achieved through its various Wings, Attached departments, Sub-ordinate offices and autonomous bodies. Brief introduction of each of them is as under:

- **Administration Wing** is responsible for dealing with all administrative and financial matters related to the Ministry as well as Commissions. It also deals with parliamentary affairs falling under the ambit of the Ministry.
- **Human Rights Wing** deals with all the matters related to human rights violations within Pakistan in coordination with Provincial Human Rights Departments and provincial offices of the Ministry. It also monitors the implementation of National Action Plan on Human Rights as well as media to develop media strategy accordingly and deal matters relating to NCHR, ZARRA, and Helpline & LAJA.
- **International Cooperation Wing** is responsible to oversee the implementation of UN Conventions and Covenants as ratified by Pakistan and reporting the same through Universal Periodical Report and matters relating to NCRC, NCSW, NCCWD and CPI.
- **Development Wing** deals with preparation and implementation of Special Initiatives through PSDP Projects.
- **Social Welfare Wing** oversees the administrative and policy matters related to Social Welfare Centers, Family Protection & Rehabilitation Centre (FPRC), administration of ICT Senior Citizens' Act, Transgender Protection Act and Council for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and their services in ICT.

6. ATTACHED DEPARTMENT / AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATIONS

- 1) National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR)
- 2) National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC)
- 3) National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW)
- 4) ICT Child Protection Institute (CPI)
- 5) Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency (ZARRA)

ADMINISTRATION WING

AIMS / OBJECTIVES

The major aim/objective of Administration Section is the management of official business of the Ministry by providing effective human resource and logistic support to the other sections of the ministry. The following functions have been assigned to the Administration Section: -

- Digitization and Digitalization of Official record and correspondence for a paperless office environment.
- To initiate/process the cases of appointments of the ministerial staff and recruitment against the non-development posts as per rules.
- Disposal of Parliamentary Business i.e. replies to National Assembly & Senate Questions etc.
- To process cases related to promotions of the officers and officials of MoHR and its subordinate and attached departments.
- To deal litigation in Higher Courts, Lower Courts, FST, Wafaqi Mohtasib, PIC and other legal matters.
- To process the cases for postings/transfers on regular, attachment and deputation basis as per rules.
- To initiate disciplinary proceedings as per rules & regulations.
- To arrange training programs and workshops for the capacity building of the employees of MoHR.
- To process cases related to financial matters like, procurements, transport, hiring, medical reimbursement, advances & loans etc.
- To dispose of work related to Public Accounts Committee and audit paras.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF ADMINISTRATION WING:

1. The cases of the attached / subordinate departments and autonomous bodies i.e., Child Protection Institute, National Commission on the Rights of Child, National Commission on the Status of Women, National Commission for Human Rights, National Commission for Child Welfare & Development, National Council for Social Welfare (defunct), Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Agency (ZARRA) were processed as highlighted below:
 - Appointment of Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women
 - Appointing of Member (ICT), National Commission for Human Rights.
 - Processed & get approved resignation cases of Member (Balochistan) and Member (Child) Female of National Commission on the Rights of Child.
 - Appointment of Member Child (Female) of National Commission on the Rights of Child.
 - Appointment of Director General, Child Protection Institute, Islamabad.
2. Formulated Recruitment and Financial Rule of NCRC, CPI, NCHR, ICT Senior Citizen Council & NCSW.
3. The Recruitment Rules of ZARRA after vetting from Establishment Division have been forwarded to Finance Division for vetting purposes.
4. The complaints received in this Ministry either directly or through the Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU) and Pakistan Information Commission relating to various issues in the organizations under the administrative control of the Ministry of Human Rights or against particular officers/officials were examined thoroughly and the complainants were

responded accordingly. Also, the personal grievances of the former employees of the MoHR were addressed timely.

5. Processed promotion cases of officers/officials of the Ministry as well as officers under its administrative control.
6. Dealt with residual matters of retired officers/officials of offices transferred to this Ministry due to implementation of the Constitutional amendments.
7. Initiated disciplinary proceedings against delinquent employees of the Ministry & its allied offices.
8. In line with Government's Austerity Measures to curb the expenditure and avoid duplication of business National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD), Implementation of National Plan of Action for Children (INPAC) and National Child Protection Center (NCPC) were wound up.
9. Dealt with all HR related issues of MoHR such as leaves, grant of advance i.e. House Building Advance, Motor Car Advance, GP Fund Advance, and Motorcycle Advance etc.
10. Ministry also provides logistic support to its Commission and sub-ordinate offices as and when requested.

International Coordination Wing

Key Activities and Achievements:

1. Coordination and Facilitation in Human Rights Matters:

- The Ministry coordinated multiple inter-ministerial and inter-provincial meetings to address human rights concerns. A significant meeting was held on April 19, 2024, regarding GSP Plus, with representatives from various ministries and provincial departments participating in person and via Zoom.
- Inter-provincial consultations on the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) were conducted in Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar for the compilation of state report on list of issues related to the second periodic report on ICESCR.
- Additionally, the Ministry facilitated a special secretariat for the delegation attending the 24th-26th periodic review of ICERD (International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination).
- The Ministry collaborated with federal and provincial governments to respond to human rights cases referred through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. Legislative and Policy Initiatives:

- To harmonize national legislation with international human rights agreements, the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill was re-initiated after lapsing with the previous Parliament's tenure. This bill aims to prevent domestic violence and aligns with recommendations from CEDAW, ICCPR, and UPR.
- Efforts were made to standardize the legal marriage age to 18 years for both boys and girls by amending the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929, ensuring compliance with international conventions.
- MoHR initiated the formulation of a National Policy on Ending Violence Against Women.
- A National Strategy for Male Involvement in Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is also under development with multiple consultations conducted across provinces this year.
- The Ministry has been actively implementing the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP-BHR), especially the action points related to human rights due diligence and protecting marginalized communities.
- To enhance compliance with international human rights conventions, the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) was established in coordination with federal ministries and provincial governments.

3. International Engagements and Representations:

Pakistan actively participated in several international forums and bilateral meetings, advocating for human rights and compliance with international treaties.

- High-level meetings with diplomats and international organizations were held on human rights issues including EU Election Expert Mission (February 2, 2024) British Political Counsellor (February 16, 2024), the British High Commissioner (April 2, 2024), Virtual meeting with Lord Tariq UK Minister of state for the middle East, North Africa, South Asia Commonwealth, and United Nations (April 15, 2024), Australian High Commissioner (May 7, 2024), Canadian High Commissioner (May 22, 2024).
- MoHR participated 12th South Asia Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 9-11 August, 2023

- MoHR participated 15th Advance Seminar in International Humanitarian Law at Geneva, Switzerland held from 28 August to 1st September, 2023
- MoHR participated 2023 Asian Development Bank Gender Forum at ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines held from 21-22 November, 2023
- MoHR participated in Second Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Regional Gender Expert Group Meeting at Tbilisi, Georgia held from 28-29 December, 2023
- MoHR participated UNESCAP Expert Group Meeting and Ministerial Conference to review the Asia-Pacific Beijing+30 Regional Synthesis Report in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Pakistan also actively contributed to the 6th Periodic Report on CEDAW, addressing issues of women’s empowerment, gender-based violence, and political participation.
- The Ministry examined and finalized MoUs with Türkiye and Rwanda on cooperation in family and social services, gender promotion, and child development.
- MoHR actively engaged with the International forums (OIC, WDO, SCO, CAREC, ADB, CEDAW, Beijing Plus etc.) and also participated in their conferences/ meetings.
- MoHR participated in 13th Pak-EU Joint Commission meeting held in Brussels, Belgium in June, 2023. The sub-group on democracy, governance, rule of law, and human rights is a forum to address concerns on human rights bilaterally.
- MoHR participated in the 13th session of the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, which was held in Geneva from 25 to 27 November 2023. This forum provides an opportunity to learn and share best practices on human rights as upheld across different business sectors.

4. **Pictorial view of Workshops and Capacity Building Initiatives:**

Several capacity-building and awareness-raising initiatives were undertaken, including:

- Awareness and capacity-building workshops on NAP-BHR for public and private sector stakeholders in Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar.



- Provincial Consultations on List of Issues ICESCR.



- Provincial Consultations on List of Issues ICESCR



- 24th – 26th combined ICERD Report Presentation at Geneva



- ICCPR Report Presentation at Geneva



- 3th Session of UN Forum on BHR, Geneva



Human Rights Wing

Human Rights Wing of Ministry of Human Rights along with four Regional Offices, is mandated to perform major functions for the protection and promotion of human rights; review of the human rights situation in the country including implementation of laws, policies and measures; obtaining information, documents and reports on complaints and allegations of human rights violations from Ministries, Divisions, Provincial Governments and other agencies. Accordingly, the key initiatives undertaken by the Human Rights Wing during FY 2023-24 are as under:

1. Human Rights Relief & Revolving Fund

This fund aims at providing legal and financial assistance to the victims and affectees of human rights violations like kidnapping, rape, domestic violence, hardship cases, extra-judicial killing, police encounter, and cases of burning and acid throwing. During the FY 2023-24 a total **185** victims of human rights violations have been granted financial assistance (Rs. 3,700,000/-) on account of Human Rights Relief Fund and Human Rights Revolving Fund.

2. Diyat, Arsh and Daman Fund

This fund was established to redress the grievances of poor and needy convicts. The purpose of the fund is to provide grants to those convicts who are incapacitated due to physical or mental illness or otherwise and are languishing in jails on account of non-payment of Diyat, Arsh and Daman amount. Diyat, Arsh and Daman Fund Rules, 2007 were framed by the Federal Government in order to provide financial assistance for convicts languishing in jails due to non-payment of Diyat, Arsh and Daman amount to the legal heirs of the victims. The grants are being provided to convicts who fulfill the prescribed criteria under Diyat, Arsh and Daman Fund Rules, 2007. During 9th Meeting of the Committee held on 19th February 2024 and a Diyat amount Rs. 1,758,989/- (Rupees 1.7 Million) was given to release one prisoner from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The meetings of the Sub-Committees of the provinces were also convened to consider the eligible cases for the Diyat, Arsh and Daman Fund.

4. Human Rights Complaint Cells at Federal and Provincial Levels

Ministry of Human Rights established “Human Rights Complaint Cells at Federal and Provincial levels” which are fully operational at Islamabad and Regional Offices of the Ministry. All complaints are strictly considered and referred to the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and the concerned Ministries/Departments/Agencies/Organizations for redressal as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). During FY 2023-24, Complaint Cell received 511 complaints which here taken up with concerned authorities for necessary action.

5. Monitoring of Human Rights Violations Cases

Ministry of Human Rights monitors human rights violations through print and electronic media. Ministry of Human Rights and its Regional Offices identified **5836** cases of human rights violations during the FY 2023-24 and took them up with the concerned authorities, including law enforcement agencies etc.

6. Implementation Commission on Prison Reforms

Keeping in view the alarming state of affairs regarding serious violations of human rights and civil liberties of prisoners incarcerated in prisons across the country, the Honourable Islamabad High Court constituted the Commission under the Chair of Federal Minister for Human Rights on 22nd November, 2019. The Commission was mandated to investigate human rights violations in the prisons of Pakistan, lack of medical assistance, obstacles in access to a court of law of prisoners who do not have means or assistance in this regard; to investigate failure on part of the executive authorities and respective Governments to fulfill obligations and enforce the Prisons Rules and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 regarding to prisoners who suffer from illness and diseases; to carry out a review of the Prisons Rules and other relevant

laws with the object of fulfilling the commitments of the State of Pakistan under the Constitution, International Treatise and Conventions; and to propose solutions to deal with the human rights violation in the prisons and amendments in any law, rules or regulations. In this regard, the Commission completed its work and submitted a report to the Islamabad High Court on 18th January, 2020. The Islamabad High Court passed final judgement on 6th April 2020. Pursuant to the Commission's Report, the Islamabad High Court directed that the Commission shall continue as "Implementation Commission" for ensuring that the recommendations made in the report are complied with. The copies of the Commission's Report and copies of the Islamabad High Court Judgement were shared with the Provincial Chief Secretaries, Provincial Home Secretaries, Provincial IG Prisons, Secretary Ministry of Interior, Secretary Ministry of Law and Justice, Secretary Ministry of Health and Chief Commissioner, Islamabad for implementation of recommendations of the Commission's Report. The Implementation Commission held its 7th meeting on 5th July, 2023 to review the status of prisons conditions and allegations of torture and abuse.

7. Awareness Activities/ Sessions

Ministry of Human Rights has arranged 151 Seminars in Universities / Higher Education institutions across Pakistan, through HEC in FY 2023-24. The overall objective was to raise awareness and to prepare youth against the threats of cybercrimes & misuse of social media to save them from being part of heinous crimes.

Keeping in view the merger of FATA with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the MoHR has launched a PSDP project, titled "Establishment of Sub-Office of Human Rights at Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" with a budget of Rs. 65 million which is being implemented to mainstream the human rights component in the newly merged areas.

8. Celebration of International Days

International Days i.e. International Human Rights Day (10th December), International Women's Day (8th March), and Universal Children's Day (20th November) as well as 16 Days of Activism against GBV (25th November to 10th December) are observed by MoHR and Regional Offices as regular features. During the FY 2023-24, besides awareness-raising activities, grand functions were arranged to celebrate these international days in a befitting manner.

8. Regional Offices of Human Rights:

Regional Office of Ministry of Human Rights located at provincial headquarters (Karachi, Lahore, Quetta and Peshawar) carried out a number of awareness-raising sessions, seminars and other activities in collaboration with provincial line departments and non-governmental organizations for the promotion and protection of Human Rights in the country. Details of Awareness Sessions, activities undertaken by the Regional Offices are as under:

Punjab:

- The Regional Office of Human Rights Punjab, through print, electronic and social media identified and took up 1924 cases of human rights violations and forwarded these cases to concerned provincial departments to provide relief to victims of human rights violations.
- Lahore Office dealt with 7726 complaints registered on the Pakistan Citizen Portal.
- The Regional Office arranged 15 programs / seminars for awareness of general people; students, teachers, government departments & civil society.

Sindh:

- On the occasion of International Woman Day on (8th March), Regional Office Human Rights, Karachi organized programme, in collaboration with Society for Human Rights and Prisoners Aid (SHARP), at head office of SHARP NGO at Gulshan-e-Iqbal Karachi to highlight women issues and measures taken by the federal and provincial governments.

- Arranged a two-day Consultative Session on Beijing declaration and platform for action on 29 and 30th April 2024 at PC Hotel, Karachi.
- Arranged awareness raising and sensitization session for Police officials on various human rights laws, including Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act 2023, the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act 2022, Anti Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act. 2024 in collaboration with Sindh Police Department at Shahid Hayat, Police Training College Saeedabad, Karachi on 27th May, 2024.
- During FY 2023-24, 1644 cases of human rights violations from press clippings and applications received from individuals/NGOs. All cases were forwarded to the concerned departments for relief and reports.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

- The Regional Office of Human Rights, Peshawar organized a Consultative meeting with the relevant stakeholders from Government Departments and NGOs on 16th May, 2024 about human rights situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- A dialogue also held with representatives of relevant Government Departments, transgender community and NGOs on 23rd May, 2024. The purpose of this dialogue was to build an effective referral mechanism for redressal of the grievances of marginalized segment of society.
- The Regional Office of Human Rights, Peshawar held meeting on 31st May, 2024 with the representatives of the Christian, Hindu and Sikh minorities to discuss the issues faced by them in the province and their recommendation were shared with the provincial government departments for their redressal.
- A Seminar on Human Rights Education and Sensitization was held at Government Degree College for Boy Jamrud, District Khyber on 25th November, 2023. Students and academia actively participated in the seminar.
- On 6th December, 2023, the Director RoHR, Peshawar alongwith his team held a meeting with inmates of Dar-ul-Amaan on 16 Days of Activism against GBV.
- The Regional Office of Human Rights took up 1995 cases of human rights violations.

Balochistan:

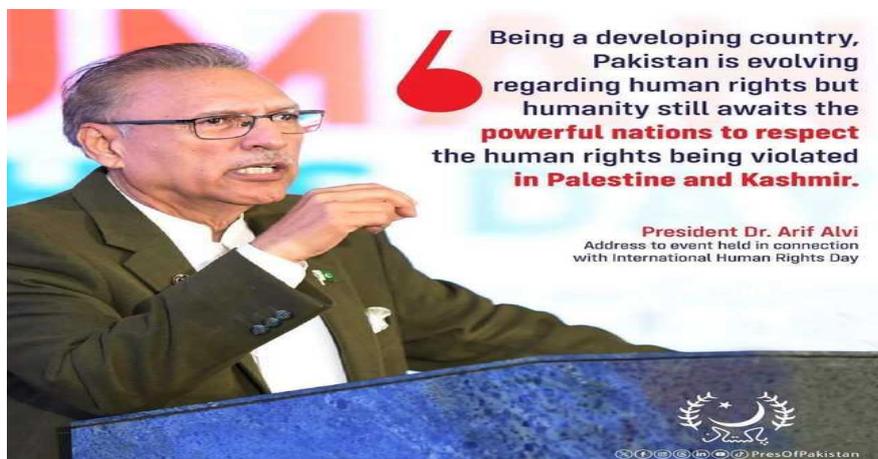
- Visit of Central Jail, Quetta, by Regional Director, ROHR, Quetta
- Meeting was convened in the office of Vice Chancellor Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University, regarding the harassment committees of the University established earlier.
- A Meeting was held with the staff of Provincial Ombudsperson regarding the amendments in the Balochistan Protection against harassment of women at workplace Act 2016.
- Meeting with Additional Secretary, Department of School Education, Focal Person Policy Planning and Implementation Unit, was held on account of CEDAW's 6th periodic report.
- On the eve of Universal Children Day, a seminar was arranged by ROHR at Balochistan Boy Scouts, Quetta in collaboration with DANESH and UNHCR.
- RoHR/MoHR held an awareness-raising session for rural communities in Quetta on Women's Rights & Prevention of GBV on 6th September, 2023.

Pictorial view of the major activities

Federal Minister and Secretary, Ministry of Human Rights, greeting the President of Pakistan on the occasion of International Human Rights Day 2023 at the Presidency.



Ministry of Human Rights commemorated International Human Rights Day on 8th December, 2023 at Presidency, Islamabad.



Secretary, Ministry of Human Rights addressing the audience on the occasion of International Human Rights Day 2023 at the Presidency.



Chairperson NCHR addressing the audience on the occasion of International Human Rights Day 2023 at the Presidency.



Federal Minister for Human Rights chairing meeting of the Implementation Commission on Prison Reforms



The Caretaker Prime Minister Mr. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar graced the grand function on the occasion of Universal Children's Day on 20th November, 2023.



Federal Minister for Human Rights Mr. Khalil George, with the participants of the awareness seminar on the occasion of 16 days of activism to end violence against women and girls.



MoHR held an awareness-raising session for rural communities in Quetta on Women's Rights & Prevention of GBV on 6th September, 2023



Rural women's participation in Seminar on Women's Rights & Prevention of GBV at Quetta



DEVELOPMENT WING

The Development Wing of the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) oversees the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), managing development budgets, project planning, and progress reporting while ensuring compliance with PC-I to PC-V procedures. It facilitates timely fund disbursement, prepares essential reports for the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI), and maintains project data through the Intelligent Project Automation System (iPAS). For 2023-24, its projects encompass strengthening MoHR's technical capacity, launching awareness campaigns, facilitating and protecting rights of vulnerable groups, and leveraging ICT-based data systems for improved monitoring and reporting as per international commitments.

PSDP Portfolio

The PSDP portfolio of the Ministry of Human Rights for the fiscal year 2023-24 is as follows:

1. Establishment of PMU in MoHR

The Establishment of the Project Planning and Monitoring Unit (PMU) is a DDWP approved project with a total cost of Rs. 75.00 million. It is focused on project planning, approval, fund allocation, utilization, and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Serving as the primary liaison with the Planning Commission and Finance Division on PSDP matters, it ensures effective coordination and compliance.

Key achievements in FY 2023-24

Include the approval of three new projects in the DDWP, securing budgets for eight ongoing projects, and conducting regular monthly and quarterly PSDP reviews. Additionally, the PMU facilitated procurement approvals under Austerity Measures, integrated all Ministry sections with EPADS, and provided specialized training to PSDP officers on EPADS and PPRA regulations.

2. Human Rights Information Management System (HRIMS)

The Human Rights Information Management System (HRIMS) is a DDWP approved project with a total cost of Rs. 67.85 million. It is a digital initiative of the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) designed to support nationwide ministerial functions, UN/EU reporting, Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) monitoring, and the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF). It provides an institutionalized framework for the systematic collection and management of human rights data across the country.

Key achievements in FY 2023-24

Include the successful collection of ICCPR report data from federal and provincial stakeholders, deployment of HRIMS, CPIMS, and the BHR website on the NTC Cloud, and the revamping of the MoHR Helpline (1099). Additionally, the project launched the Human Rights Complaint Portal and AWAZ App in collaboration with PMDU, hosted an Attendance Management System, and initiated the integration of social welfare systems with NITB.

3. Establishment of Sub-Office of Human Rights in Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Establishment of Sub-Office of Human Rights in Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a DDWP approved project with a total cost of Rs. 65.00 million. It is designed to strengthen human rights monitoring, raise awareness, address grievances, develop referral mechanisms, fulfill international commitments, and enhance social safety net linkages through targeted training and capacity-building initiatives.

Key achievements in FY 2023-24

Include the successful organization of five training workshops on women and children's laws for law enforcement personnel across the newly merged districts (NMDs), including Mohmand, Khyber, Bajaur, Kurram, Orakzai, and North and South Waziristan. Additionally, three awareness seminars were conducted in colleges across the merged districts, and three consultative sessions were held with key stakeholders and District Human Rights Committees in Khyber, Orakzai, and Kurram to assess the regional human rights landscape. Furthermore, a workshop with lawyers from NMDs led to the establishment of a legal assistance panel, ensuring free legal aid services for vulnerable communities.

4. Human Rights Awareness Programme

The Human Rights Awareness Programme (HRAP) is a DDWP approved project with a total cost of Rs. 55.00 million. It is dedicated to promoting public awareness of constitutional and legal rights through mass media campaigns, workshops, and training sessions, fostering a more informed and equitable society.

Key achievements in FY 2023-24

Include the successful organization of 21 nationwide awareness and sensitization sessions on women's rights, gender-based violence (GBV), and human rights legislation. These comprised three community sessions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, five workshops at universities, and six capacity-building sessions for law enforcement agencies. Major events such as International Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, and National Working Women's Day were also commemorated. Additionally, a nationwide transit advertising campaign, in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways, was launched across seven major trains, and six public service messages were disseminated via social media. Furthermore, two dedicated university sessions focused on gender equality and pro-women legislation, reinforcing HRAP's commitment to legal literacy and social empowerment.

5. Human Rights Coordination and Monitoring Unit for NMRF

The Human Rights Coordination and Monitoring Unit for National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) is a DDWP approved project with a total cost of Rs. 43.90 million. It plays a critical role in ensuring compliance with UN guidelines by coordinating reports for treaty bodies, universal periodic reviews, and special procedures while monitoring Pakistan's treaty obligations.

Key achievements in FY 2023-24

Include the establishment and formal notification of the NMRF Executive Committee, along with the development of a digital platform featuring designated focal persons to enhance data collection and reporting processes. The unit successfully integrated NGOs and civil society organizations into reporting cycles for key international commitments, including ICCPR, ICESCR, UPR, BPFA, CEDAW, CRC, and CAT. Additionally, it conducted capacity-building sessions, notably a two-week intensive training program for MoHR officers, to enhance institutional expertise in treaty compliance. Furthermore, a comprehensive review of 26 domestic laws was undertaken to align national legislation with international human rights standards, identifying key legislative gaps for future policy interventions.

6. Pilot Project for the Establishment of Transgender Protection Centre, Islamabad

The Pilot Project for the Establishment of Transgender Protection Centre, Islamabad, is a DDWP approved project with a total cost of Rs. 35.80 million. It serves as a dedicated facility offering legal, psychological, and medical support to the transgender community while facilitating referrals and promoting awareness of their rights and welfare.

Key achievements in FY 2023-24

Include providing legal assistance to 50 transgender individuals, delivering medical services to 200, and offering psychological counseling to 355. The Centre successfully registered 150 transgender persons and established linkages with NADRA and BISP for identity registration and financial support. Strategic collaborations were formed with UNDP, PUN, IRM, SMEDA, NAVTTC, and NCSW to enhance services and advocacy efforts. Additionally, the Centre engaged with ICT Police and CDA to strengthen institutional support and integration within government frameworks.

7. Institutional Strengthening of MoHR

The Institutional Strengthening of MoHR is a DDWP approved project with a total cost of Rs. 90.00 million. It has significantly enhanced the Ministry's operational efficiency through E-Office implementation, ICT infrastructure upgrades, process automation, cybersecurity improvements, and streamlined internal communication.

Key achievements in FY 2023-24

Include the modernization of server rooms, firewalls, and network infrastructure, achieving 100% e-filing adoption across the Ministry. The E-Office system was successfully deployed in 10 Social Welfare Centers, with integration efforts underway for two commissions. Additionally, dedicated portals for cabinet summaries, attendance tracking, and legal management were launched. Cybersecurity measures were reinforced through NTISB advisories and NCERT training, while comprehensive IT support was provided for troubleshooting, biometric attendance management, and helpline system maintenance.

8. Prime Minister's Initiative for Women Empowerment

The Prime Minister's Initiative for Women Empowerment, a CDWP project with a Rs. 5,000 million allocations for 2023-24, aimed to promote gender equality through financial aid, skills training, asset transfers, child protection, rehabilitation services, and support for working women. This project sought to enhance women's economic, political, and social empowerment nationwide.

Key achievements in FY 2023-24

Include the disbursement of Rs.250 million to 932 beneficiaries under the Grant-in-Aid for Widows of Shuhada and Families of War-Wounded Soldiers. However, following the Apex Committee of SIFC's decision on January 3, 2024, the initiative was capped at the current expenditure level, with no further disbursements made.

Completed Projects

During the fiscal year 2023-24, the Ministry of Human Rights submitted (PC-IV) project completion reports to the Planning Commission for the following projects:

Planning and Monitoring Unit (PMU) within DGSE

The Planning and Monitoring Unit (PMU) within DGSE was a DDWP approved project with a total cost of Rs. 15.00million. It was established to support project execution, strengthen special education services, and enhance monitoring and evaluation capacities for the Directorate General of Special Education. It facilitated PSDP-related tasks i.e. budget planning, procurement, and policymaking collaborations, while also overseeing project appraisals, progress reporting, and stakeholder coordination.

1. Pilot Project for Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Public & Private Schools at ICT Islamabad

The Pilot Project for Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Public & Private Schools at ICT Islamabad was a DDWP approved project with a total cost of Rs. 30.00 million. It aimed to facilitate the integration of children with mild to moderate disabilities into mainstream education. The initiative focused on enhancing awareness, modifying school facilities, and promoting inclusive educational practices.

Key achievements in FY 2023-24

Include the registration and enrollment of thousands of children with disabilities, comprehensive teacher training programs, the development of an inclusive curriculum, and the provision of essential equipment and infrastructure to support accessibility and learning.

2. Feasibility Study for a Centre for Persons with Multiple Disabilities at H-11/4, Islamabad

The Feasibility Study for a Centre for Persons with Multiple Disabilities at H-11/4, Islamabad, was a DDWP approved project with a total cost of Rs. 15.00 million. It aimed to assess the establishment of a specialized facility providing early intervention, diagnostics, education, rehabilitation, vocational training, and boarding for children aged 0-16 with multiple disabilities.

Key achievements in FY 2023-24

Include a comprehensive evaluation of infrastructure requirements, service delivery models, and cost estimates, laying a strategic foundation for the project's future implementation

3. Implementation of Action Plan for Human Rights in Pakistan

The Implementation of the Action Plan for Human Rights in Pakistan was a DDWP approved project with a total cost of Rs.57.50 million. It aimed to strengthen human rights protections through education, advocacy, research, and inter-ministerial coordination across six thematic areas, sixteen outcomes, and sixty actions.

Key achievements in FY 2023-24

Include the organization of sensitization workshops across all four provinces, compilation of the 2022-23 progress report covering activities from 121 ministries and departments, and convening the 6th National Task Force meeting to assess implementation progress.

New Projects

During the fiscal year 2023-24, the Ministry of Human Rights initiated three key development projects to strengthen institutional support for vulnerable groups, including children, senior citizens, and human rights organizations, in compliance with legal mandates and judicial directives. These projects are as follows:

1. **The Construction of Human Rights Complex at G-10/4, Islamabad** was approved in the DDWP meeting on 28 March 2024, with a total cost of Rs. 34.520 million. This complex envisages to accommodate key organizations, including NCRC, NCHR, NCSW, and NIHR, ensuring a dedicated space for their operations. The project is expected to save the Ministry approximately Rs. 25.534 million annually in rental costs.

2. **The Construction of Senior Citizen Home (Dar-ul-Shafqat) in Islamabad** was approved in the DDWP meeting on 28 March 2024, with a total cost of Rs. 465.622 million. This project envisages to fulfill the Honorable High Court's directive and align with Section 10 of the ICT Senior Citizens' Act 2021, by ensuring a dedicated facility for indigent senior citizens with essential medical care and recreational services.

3. **The Construction of Child Protection Institute (CPI) at H-11/4, Islamabad** was approved in the DDWP meeting on 28 March 2024, with a total cost of Rs. 885.068 million. This project envisages to comply with the Islamabad High Court's directive and fulfill the mandate under Section 10 of the ICT Child Protection Act 2018, by ensuring institutional protective services for street children, drug-addicted minors, and victims of exploitation and abuse in line with national and international commitments.

SOCIAL WELFARE WING

The Ministry of Human Rights works to promote equality and opportunity through targeted policies and initiatives aimed at supporting vulnerable communities. Its efforts focus on reducing poverty, advancing societal progress, and advocating for social justice. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Social Welfare Wing made significant strides in community development, with various programs and projects aimed at improving the lives of marginalized and underserved populations. Below are the key highlights of the Social Welfare Wing's achievements during this period.

1. Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

In the fiscal year 2023-24, the Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), under the Ministry of Human Rights, undertook significant initiatives to enhance the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The Medical Assessment Board (MAB) held 16 meetings and issued 1,297 disability certificates to eligible individuals, covering a range of disabilities: 636 for physical, 99 for visual, 190 for hearing, and 372 for mental disabilities. To streamline registration, NADRA Mobile Registration Vans were deployed for the issuance of Special CNICs, supported by an awareness campaign on the benefits of registration.



The CRPD also focused on policy and legislative efforts to protect the rights of PWDs. The implementation of the ICT Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 ensured the protection of PWDs' rights in alignment with constitutional and Islamic principles. The Council worked with federal ministries and departments to enforce the 1% disability employment quota, advocated for ramps in government buildings to improve accessibility, and led awareness campaigns about various government benefits for PWDs. These included the Special CNIC with a universal disability logo, free medical treatment in government hospitals, access to Sehat Sahulat Cards, duty-free car imports, and concessions on Air & Rail Travel fares.



2. Women Welfare & Development Centre, G-7/1, Islamabad (WWDC)

The Women Welfare and Development Centre (WWDC) plays a pivotal role in women empowerment by offering them the tools to achieve economic independence and elevate their socio-economic status. During the fiscal year 2023-24, WWDC through strategic collaborations with organizations such as NAVTTC, UNHCR, and JICA, equipped over 1,100 women with market-driven skills, including digital marketing, graphic design, and beauty therapy. WWDC also conducted 80 x Workshops / Awareness Sessions by engaging stakeholders in conversations about the importance of women's economic empowerment and the critical role of micro-financing in fostering small businesses. Notably by the efforts of WWDC, 87 women have successfully launched their own online ventures, further highlighting the impact of the center's initiatives. Since its inception, WWDC has trained over 20,000 women, providing a wide range of vocational and technical training that not only supports their personal growth but also contributes to national development and poverty alleviation. These efforts resonate deeply with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), strengthening women's active role in Pakistan's socio-economic advancement. In this respect, notable activities of WWDC in the fiscal year 2023-24 are given below:

- On November 30th, 2023, the WWDC, hosted a seminar titled "Stop Violence Against Women" as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The then Honorable Minister of Human Rights, Mr. Khalil George, attended as the Chief Guest, underscoring the government's dedication to tackle gender-based violence.



- On October 19th, 2023, WWDC celebrated International Rural Women's Day with an exhibition highlighting the talents and contributions of rural women. The event was honored by the presence of the Mr. Allah Dino Khowaja, Secretary of the Ministry of Human Rights as the Chief Guest.



- WWDC made a notable impact at the "Women Expo 2023" held at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry on August 13th, 2023. The center's participation was a success, with a diverse range of items showcased at its stall.



- On October 5th, 2023, WWDC organized a joint session with Islamabad Women Police to raise awareness among women about community policing, the Neighborhood Watch Program, and the Gender Protection Unit in Islamabad.



The Red Crescent, in collaboration with WWDC, organized two-day sessions on "Safety Measures and First Aid at Workplace and Home" in July, August, and December 2023. The session aimed to promote physical and psychological well-being among women. A Red Crescent representative provided an in-depth lecture and practical demonstrations of first aid techniques for various emergency situations.



3. Family Protection & Rehabilitation Centre for Women, Islamabad (FPRC)

FPRC's regular activities include client registration, counseling, therapy, group sessions, awareness programs, and religious counseling. The center also provides outreach visits, legal aid, medical care, and organized events such as medical camps, workshops, and awareness sessions for mental health, oral health, and family planning.

In the fiscal year 2023-24, the FPRC registered a total of 279 cases of gender-based violence (GBV). Alongside this, the center provided comprehensive support, offering medical aid in 1,072 instances and legal assistance in 120 cases. Additionally, 652 survivors were accommodated in the shelter home, while 23,679 counseling sessions were conducted. These efforts surpassed the set targets, demonstrating the center's commitment to supporting GBV survivors.

During the fiscal year, the FPRC was also upgraded as a Model Center with the inauguration of a Tele-Medicine/Health Clinic for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) on May 13, 2024.



4. Social Welfare Training Institute (SWTI)

SWTI's core mission is to elevate the expertise of social welfare workers and supervisors, thereby enhancing their effectiveness in social development initiatives. The institute also plays a pivotal role in empowering personnel responsible for administration, policymaking, and the execution of social welfare programs at both local and national levels. Beyond training, SWTI conducts essential surveys to gather valuable insights that guide informed policymaking and the delivery of impactful social and human rights services.

In FY 2023-24, SWTI delivered a series of impactful training courses focused on crucial issues such as violence against women, poverty alleviation, drug abuse prevention, report writing, communication skills, and capacity building. Among the standout events were a National Conference on Drug Abuse, Specialized Training on Public Health Systems and Insightful Sessions on Education & Social Welfare Frameworks. These courses, designed to empower professionals across key government departments, NGOs, and community organizations. In this respect, 480 individuals were benefited from such courses equipping them with both valuable knowledge and practical skills essential for driving positive change.

5. Community Development Centre (CDC), Noon

During the fiscal year 2023-24, CDC Noon provided a range of impactful services to the community. These included the opening of a female sub-center in Nasrala. Additionally, CDC Noon organized various health-related initiatives, including an eye awareness camp in collaboration with the partners, offering free eye screenings and spectacles. Moreover, CDC Noon facilitated a free general medical camp in February 2024, offering essential health services such as ultrasound, ECG, and free checkups in collaboration with the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology. A homeopathic camp was also conducted in May 2024 with free consultations and medications. Furthermore, the center conducted a family planning camp in June 2024, in partnership with the Rehnuma Family Planning Association, providing essential guidance and medicines to women. In this respect, notable activities of CDC Noon in the fiscal year 2023-24 are given below:



Rural Women's Day was celebrated in Taramri in collaboration with all Community Development Centers. Around 70 participants from the rural areas of CDC Noon showcased their stalls, representing their communities. The event was honored by the presence of the Mr. Allah Dino Khowaja, Secretary of the Ministry of Human Rights as the Chief Guest. The Secretary of Human Rights visited the stalls and commended the efforts and hard work of the rural women.



Several free Medical Camps were held in collaboration with Al-Kousar Clinic, Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology, and Rahnuma Family Planning Association. These camps offered various services, including ultrasound, ECG, ECO, general checkups, family planning advice, and the distribution of medicines.



CDC Noon successfully completed the Nursery Education (Pre-school) Session 2023-24, for students from underprivileged communities.

6. Pilot Comprehensive Community Development Centre, Sohan

The Pilot Comprehensive Community Development Centre, serves nine villages within the Sohan Union Council in Islamabad. The Centre is committed to improve the community through its Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services, Vocational Training, Adult Literacy programs, and Youth Recreation initiatives, addressing both educational and health needs to foster social development.

In the fiscal year 2023-24, the Centre made significant strides in its efforts. The Literacy Services program helped motivate children and adults to pursue education, offering free coaching and informal learning opportunities for school dropouts. The Vocational Training program provided essential skills to men and women in rural areas, with courses ranging from Solar and UPS Assembling to Tailoring and Beautician training. Through its Youth Recreational Services, the Centre engaged young people in sports and activities to promote physical and mental well-being, in line with the National Youth Policy. Its Maternal and Child Health Care Services continued to raise awareness about reproductive health, hygiene, and vaccinations, including critical campaigns on Dengue, Immunization, and Polio. The Centre's multifaceted approach continues to positively impact the community, with growing participation and expanded services across these areas.



7. Rural Community Development Centre, Punjgran, Islamabad

The Rural Community Development Center in fiscal year 2023-24, made notable strides in youth empowerment, especially among young women. It provided vocational training to 980 boys and girls i.e. for boys in mobile repairing, basic electronics, motor winding, and, for girls in dressmaking and beauty culture. Health services were also expanded, with 2,009 pregnant women and newborns receiving regular checks from Lady Health Visitors (LHVs), while 4,500 OPD patients were treated for minor health issues. Additionally, 2,000 young people were engaged in social welfare activities, and 500 students participated in the literacy programs, furthering the center's commitment to community development and education.

The notable activities of Rural Community Development Centre, Punjgran, Islamabad in the fiscal year 2023-24, are given below:



The Rural Community Development Center Punjgran hosted an exhibition for International Rural Women's Day, highlighting products made by rural women and vocational students. The event aimed to promote empowerment, gender equality, and sustainable development in rural areas. The event was honored by the presence of the Mr. Allah Dino Khowaja, Secretary of the Ministry of Human Rights as the Chief Guest.

On International Humanitarian Day, August 19th, 2023, a one-day free medical camp was held for the transgender community. The camp offered general health check-ups, free medications, and blood tests for HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and diabetes. Eye checkups were conducted alongwith referrals for cataract surgery. In total, 150 transgender individuals benefited from the camp.



8. Social Services Medical Centre, FGS, Islamabad.

The Social Services Medical Centre (SSMC) F.G.S.H in Islamabad provides essential healthcare services to underserved patients, funded through zakat and Pakistan Bait ul Mal. The center offers medical check-ups, blood donations, medications, tests, and counseling, with special attention to senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. It has positively impacted over 10,000 people, providing home visits and referrals to other departments as well. In 2023-24, key services included 1,704 medical check-ups, 1,019 medication provisions through zakat, 214 through Pakistan Bait ul Mal, and counseling for 1,874 senior citizens. Additionally, 3,467 patients received guidance, demonstrating the center's significant role in supporting the community.

9. Model Child Welfare Centre, Hummak

The Model Child Welfare Centre in Hummak, Islamabad, focuses on the physical, mental, and social development of children. It offers pre-school nursery classes, non-formal education for out-of-school children, and maternal & child health services. The center also provides skill development programs, health education, and recreational activities to empower children and mothers, promoting self-reliance and community engagement. In 2023, the center impacted over 1,000 beneficiaries through various initiatives, including nursery classes, vocational training, health awareness sessions, and free medical camps. It also successfully conducted the Prime Minister's Skill Development Program in partnership with NAVTTC and imparted training to 50 women in dressmaking and beautician skills. The center's comprehensive approach has contributed to improved skills, health awareness, and community participation of local community.

The notable activities of Model Child Welfare Centre, Hummak, Islamabad in the fiscal year 2023-24, are given below:



On November 8, 2023, the Model Child Welfare Centre Hummak organized a "Children Mela" to celebrate Universal Children's Day. The event aimed to highlight children's rights, achievements, and challenges, while promoting collaboration among civil society organizations, government agencies, and the private sector. Mr. Allah Dino Khowaja, the Secretary of the Ministry of Human Rights, was the Chief Guest.



On October 19, 2023, the Model Child Welfare Centre in Hummak celebrated International Rural Women Day. Students performed national and folk songs, receiving praise and encouragement from the guests for their enthusiastic performance. The event was honored by the presence of the Mr. Allah Dino Khowaja, Secretary of the Ministry of Human Rights as the Chief Guest.



CHAPTER-II

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Background

Directorate General of Special Education (DGSE) was established in 1985 as an attached department of the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare & Special Education through a Directive of the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. After 18th Constitutional Amendment the DGSE is now functioning at ICT level. It was transferred to Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training as an attached department w.e.f. 1st July 2024.

Mandate

The mandate of DGSE is to provide Education, Training and Rehabilitation to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Functions

1. To establish model institutions for rehabilitation, special education and training for disabled, community based rehabilitation, pre-vocational training and vocational skills development for persons with disabilities.
2. Awareness raising and training to the professionals and public.
3. To prepare and execute policy and plans for Persons with Disabilities.
4. Medical treatment and rehabilitation services for Persons with Disabilities.

Achievements

- Provision of sign language interpreters for court cases on request of courts.
- Modification of syllabus as per need of students with disabilities
- Provision of Ambulance service for enrolled Children with Disabilities
Presentation of National Anthem in sign Language at Aiwan-E-Sadr, PM Secretariat, PNCA, National Library & Pakistan Girls Guide Headquarter on National Events.
- **1455** Children were enrolled in the Special Education Centres/Institutions.
- Complete initial assessment and periodical assessment of the students / children were carried out by a multi-disciplinary team comprising of Psychologist, Educationist, Medical Officer, Social Case Worker, Speech Therapist and Vocational Instructor during the year at special education centres of DGSE.
- **3327** Guidance and counseling sessions were organized for parents and students of PWDs.
- **302** Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) were provided assistive devices.
- **13431** physiotherapy sessions treatments were given to students.
- **9016** speech therapy sessions and OPD were provided to students.
- **1283** Audiological assessments were made.
- **4745** persons have benefited from the resources available at National Library & Resource Centre.
- **76** Training Courses/workshops were arranged by the National Institute of Special Education and National Mobility & Independence Training Centre. **3514** participants/ beneficiaries availed these services.
- **81** students passed out from SSC, HSSC/ B.A and studying in various colleges and universities.
- Home economics & Fine Arts Exhibition was held in National Special Education Centre for Hearing Impaired Children.
- The National Braille Press, under the Directorate General of Special Education, Ministry of Human Rights in Islamabad, had taken a historic initiative by preparing the first-ever Braille version of Fundamental Rights enshrined in the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan. This groundbreaking effort aims to

make constitutional knowledge accessible to visually impaired individuals, ensuring inclusivity and empowerment for persons with disabilities in the country.

- International Day for Sign Language (IDSL) was celebrated on 23rd September 2023 at National Special Education Centre for Hearing Impaired Children under the theme “Further Promoting Sign Language Education and Inclusion Worldwide”
- Sports gala of Hearing Impaired students of all level (Boys & girls) was held at National Special Education Centre for Hearing Impaired Children
- Launched mobile library facility as part of outreach program.
- Conducted a painting and drawing competition at National Library & Resource Centre on 19th October, 2023 among the students of Special Education Centres promoting children’s right.



- Art/painting competition on observance of black day of kashmir was held on 26th October 2023.
- An activity named ‘Use of Assistive Devices’ was held on 14th February 2024 at National Library & Resource Centre, Thirteen (13) students from class two (2) of NSEC for VHC along with their teachers attended this event.



- National Library & Resource Centre organized an activity named **Take a story Walk** on 17th January,2024.Ninteen (19) students from class one (1) of NSEC for VHC along with their teachers attended this event.



CHILD PROTECTION INSTITUTE (CPI)

The Child Protection Institute (CPI), established under Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Child Protection Act, 2018, continues to fulfil its mandate of protecting and supporting vulnerable children. The CPI offers safe and temporary shelter, psychological counselling, and rehabilitation for children identified by Child Protection Officers or referred by police, courts, and other stakeholders.

The services of the Child Protection Institute included;

- Providing shelter to homeless, street, and runaway children needing protection.
- Offering rehabilitation, reunification, reintegration, and referral services to at-risk children.
- Delivering psychological counselling and referral services to abused and exploited children.
- Raising awareness on children's rights and child protection issues.
- Providing social, legal, medical, and educational assistance to children.

During the period under report, the Child Protection Institute (CPI) undertook a range of initiatives to safeguard vulnerable children under the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Child Protection Act, 2018. Despite limited resources, the CPI provided services to **152** children in 2023-24, given as follow:

Table 1: Details of Child Protection Cases in ICT

S.No.	Gender Category	Number of Cases
1.	Male	96
2.	Female	55
3.	Transgender	01
	Total	152

ACTIVITIES OF CHILD PROTECTION INSTITUTE

AWARENESS SESSION AT PIMS

The CPI held an awareness session at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) on November 16, 2023, to educate healthcare professionals on child case management, focusing on identifying abuse signs, reporting procedures, and legal frameworks. This session was also aimed at fostering collaboration and establish a referral mechanism between PIMS and CPI.



TRAININGS FOR CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES (CPCS)

From October 30 to November 4, 2023, CPI conducted three two-day trainings for CPCs, in collaboration with ILO and Sahil. These trainings aimed to enhance community-based child protection mechanisms and improve referral and reporting processes. The objectives of these trainings were to strengthen the child protection system through community-based child protection mechanisms for improved referral and

reporting and building the institutional capacity of Islamabad based child protection committees on child rights, child labour, and child protection.



AWARENESS SESSIONS IN ICT SCHOOLS

The CPI team conducted awareness session in different schools of ICT. The purpose to organise such sessions was to raise awareness among the children and also the teaching staff regarding the issues faced by the children, existing protection laws and mechanisms, and ways to identify and report these issues at the right forum.

HELPLINE LAUNCH

The CPI helpline 1121, approved by Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA), became operational on November 5, 2023. It has received over 6700 calls, including information requests, referrals, complaints, and counselling needs.

CUSTOMIZED BUILDING OF CPI

The allocation of land in sector H-11 by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) for the establishment of CPI customized building provided an opportunity for future growth and a dedicated facility for children in need. Approval for PC I was another crucial step forward in this direction during the last year.

DISSEMINATION OF AWARENESS MESSAGES THROUGH PTA

The DG CPI held a meeting with the PTA Chairperson and discussed the collaboration to disseminated messages regarding the child protection helpline and the services provided at the Institute. As a result, the message was circulated which led to a sharp increase increase in the volume of calls received by the CPI helpline 1121.



ZARRA AND HELPLINE

ZAINAB ALERT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY AGENCY (ZARRA)

The Zainab Alert, Response, and Recovery Agency (ZARRA) was established under the ZARRA Act of 2020 to address the escalating issue of child abduction and trafficking in Pakistan. Named in memory of Zainab Ansari, a young girl tragically abducted and murdered in 2018, the agency is mandated to provide a swift and coordinated response to cases of missing children, issue Zainab Alerts, and facilitate their recovery. ZARRA operates across all four provinces of Pakistan and the Islamabad Capital Territory, leveraging integrated technology platforms such as the ZARRA Alert App and Helpline 1099 to enhance child protection mechanisms.

The ZARRA App has played a pivotal role in streamlining the reporting process for missing and abducted children. Families can now submit reports online, which are simultaneously and directly transmitted to the relevant District Police Officer's (DPO) dashboard, ensuring prompt action and coordination.

REPORTED CASES ON ZARRA ALERT DURING 2023-2024

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CASES
Total Cases	2031
Open Cases	673
Closed Cases	1358
Child Found	802
Fake	257
Duplicate	135
GENDER WISE DISTRIBUTION	
BOYS	1620
GIRLS	411

AGE WISE DISTRIBUTION	
0-5	363
6-10	455
11-15	601
16-18	612
PROVINCE WISE DISTRIBUTION	
ICT	105
PUNJAB	1212
K. P	276
BALUCHISTAN	55
AZAD.JAMMU KASHMIR	23
SINDH	360

EVENTS/MEETINGS/TRAININGS	DATE	LOCATION
Meeting with Roshni Helpline and Federal Ministry of Human Rights to collaborate and promote ZARRA.	October11,2023	The committee room of MoHR Islamabad
MoU Signing Event between Roshni Helpline and ZARRA.	October26,2023	Kohsar Complex, Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad
The Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Agency (ZARRA) Mobile Application Launch event at the Prime Minister Office.	November20,2023	Prime Minister House, Islamabad
3 Meetings with the Honorable President at Aiwan-e-Sadr on the implementation of ZARRA Act.	December-January,2023	Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad
Mobile Ring Tone and SMS Campaign Nation-wide by ZARRA.	January-February 2023	Nation-wide
Development of ZARRA Alert Display Boards and Standees and dissemination in Police stations Nationwide.	December, 2023	Sindh, KP, ICT, AJK, GilgitBaltistan
Police Training Sessions on ZARRA Alert and application usage	February 10,2024	Rawalpindi, Islamabad
Police Training session on ZARRA Alert and application usage	May7,2024	Multan
Handover of IEC material Ceremony in AJK	June 12,2024	Azad Jammu and Kashmir

ZAINAB ALERT, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY AGENCY

ZARRA ACTIVITIES DURING 2023-2024

HELPLINE FOR LEGAL ADVICE 1099 ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS:

In 2014-15, the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) launched the "Helpline for Legal Advice on Human Rights Violations" under a Public Sector Development Project (PSDP). Initially using UAN 111-664-775, it transitioned to the free short code 1099 in November 2015. By 2018, it became a permanent non-developmental program, handling thousands of monthly calls. The helpline's success relies on strategic partnerships with law enforcement Agencies, judicial systems, legal institutions, bar associations, and human rights organizations, enhancing support for victims of human rights violations. These collaborations ensure effective assistance and resource availability for those in need. Helpline 1099 has played a vital role in assisting ZARRA by providing a nationwide, cost-free platform for reporting and responding to child abduction cases. Its strategic partnerships with law enforcement and legal entities enhance ZARRA's ability to recover missing children efficiently.

HELPLINE 1099 CALL SUMMARY 2023-2024

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024		
TOTAL CALLS		SERVICES PROVIDED
114,812		41754
MAJOR CATEGORIES		
1	Child Rights	618
2	Women right	961
3	Men Rights	14
4	Senior Citizens	10
5	Protection of Life liberty	99
6	HR Governance Issues	729
7	Labor Rights	25
8	Miscellaneous	447
9	Disabled Persons	133
10	Transgender Rights	5
11	Minorities Rights	19

HELPLINE 1099 ACTIVITIES 2023-2024

ACTIVITY EVENT/MEETING/TRAINING	DATE	LOCATION
Stakeholder consultation on Voice of Resilience: Amplifying the impact of Helpline 1099 in Addressing Gender-Based Violence	11.Dec.2023	Islamabad

Inauguration of AWAZ APP & Up-Graded Helpline 1099



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

1. **Mission:** To monitor, observe, directly investigate, raise awareness, inquire into complaints and make recommendations pertaining to human rights issues across Pakistan. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is committed to fulfilling its mandate of promoting the human rights of all citizens with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of society.

2. **Vision:** To see a progressive Pakistan where the human rights of all genders, faiths, races, and ethnicities are respected and celebrated.

3. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is Pakistan's independent federal body, established under an Act of Parliament to uphold the Paris Principles. As the country's only National Human Rights Institution, it promotes and protects human rights in line with Pakistan's Constitution and international treaties. Its key functions include monitoring and addressing human rights complaints, legislative review, advocacy, research, and advising on human rights policies. NCHR guides the government on commitments under key international treaties such as ICCPR, ICESCR, CRPD, CAT, CEDAW, CRC, and CERD.

4. NCHR has made significant progress in the second year of its term by strengthening its internal institutional structures and procedures. A governance manual has been developed, incorporating essential strategic documents such as NCHR's four-year strategic plan to guide its activities. The establishment of working groups, advisory groups, and internal committees has been pivotal in handling operational activities within the Commission. These include gender mainstreaming and anti-harassment regulations, as well as thematic human rights committees. Additionally, standard operating procedures for various functions, codes of conduct for employees and members, and rules and regulations have been established. NCHR now regularly conducts training for incoming staff to familiarise them with these codes of conduct and governance structure.

5. Due to the intensive overhaul and efforts to organise and institutionalise its processes and procedures, NCHR applied for accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), and was accredited with A-Status in May, 2024. This international accreditation is a significant milestone for both the Commission and the country.

6. NCHR's Complaint Redressal function involves a quasi-judicial role, an investigative role, and a monitoring role. The Commission received 858 complaints of different nature in all offices of the Commission and resolved about 722 of those complaints. Besides that, the Commission took 262 notices on various issues. The Commission also conducted 46 visits to various jails across the country.

7. Thematically, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) has worked on several key human rights issues, which include:

Minority Rights: Promoting and protecting the rights of minority communities in Pakistan, ensuring inclusivity and addressing challenges faced by these communities.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): Addressing gender-based violence, particularly against women and girls, through assessments of shelters and providing actionable recommendations to improve services and support for victims.

Irregular Migration: Examining the causes and consequences of irregular migration from Pakistan, highlighting the risks and complexities involved in such migration and the challenges faced by migrants.

Rights of Foreign Nationals: Protecting the rights of foreign nationals imprisoned in Pakistan, analyzing systemic challenges, legal gaps, and human rights violations within the criminal justice system.

Child Protection: Ensuring the protection of children on the move, including vulnerable groups such as Afghan refugee children and juvenile detainees. This involves collaborating with stakeholders to improve legal aid, family reunification efforts, and overall conditions for these children.

Child Labour: Examining the prevalence and contributing factors of child labour, especially in Punjab, and identifying gaps in the policy and legal frameworks that hinder the effective elimination of child labour.

Torture and Custodial Death: Conducting a gap analysis of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, identifying areas where it does not meet international standards set by the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) and other human rights instruments.

Women's rights: Through Empower HER campaign in sports and social inclusion include the right to equal participation, fair pay, safe spaces, leadership roles, and protection from discrimination and harassment. Women are entitled to access healthcare and training tailored to their needs, as well as opportunities for education and career development in sports. Additionally, sports should serve as a tool for social inclusion, empowering marginalized groups and ensuring all women can participate, lead, and benefit equally from sports

8. The Commission also prepared various reports on the following subjects, which have been sent to the concerned authorities for acting upon the recommendations made in these reports:

Upholding Inclusivity: Minority Rights Initiatives 2022-2023: This report outlines initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of minority communities in Pakistan during the specified period.

More Than Shelter: Needs Assessments of Dar ul Amans & Shelters in Pakistan: This report examines the causes and forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG), evaluates remedies, and provides a comprehensive review of women's shelters in Pakistan, based on on-site research and interviews. It identifies policy, implementation, and budget gaps, offering actionable recommendations to strengthen these vital services.

Perilous Journeys: Unravelling Irregular Migration from Pakistan. This report by the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) examines the complexities, causes, and consequences of irregular migration from Pakistan. The report sheds light on the perilous routes and methods employed by migrants, the factors driving such migration, and the significant risks involved.

Protecting the Rights of Foreign Nationals Imprisoned in Pakistan. This report explores the systemic challenges, legal gaps, and human rights concerns faced by foreign nationals detained in Pakistan. It aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of their treatment within the criminal justice system and their access to fundamental rights.

Child Protection for Children on the Move. This report outlines NCHR's efforts to advise the Pakistani government on child protection issues, particularly for vulnerable groups such as Children on the Move. Through consultations, NCHR has worked with children, civil society organizations, and policymakers to emphasize the importance of safeguarding these children. The report highlights NCHR's collaboration with the police and UN agencies in addressing complaints and ensuring the enforcement of child rights. It also reviews NCHR's visits to detention centers where Afghan refugee children and juveniles under trial were identified, leading to recommendations for improving conditions. The document serves as a

practical guide for stakeholders, aligning with Pakistan's legal framework and international obligations, to improve legal aid, family reunification efforts, and the protection of these children.

The **Situation Analysis of Child Labour in Punjab** report offers a detailed examination of child labour in the province, focusing on its prevalence, contributing factors, and the effectiveness of existing policy and legal frameworks. It identifies the key challenges hindering efforts to combat child labour and explores the socio-economic and systemic factors that drive this issue in Punjab.

The **Gap Analysis: Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022** report, conducted by NCHR in collaboration with the Justice Project Pakistan (JPP), assesses the Act's alignment with international standards. While recognizing the Act as a significant step in Pakistan's legal framework, the analysis identifies several gaps where it does not fully meet the requirements set by the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) and other international human rights instruments.

Chairperson met Commissioner Faisalabad on Jaranwala incident on August 16, 2023



NCHR calls for discouraging irregular migration



Chairperson NCHR meets first Secretary of Japan Embassy to discuss overall Human Rights Situation



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (NCSW)

The National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012 protects and promotes women's social, economic, political, and legal rights. NCSW reviews laws, policies, and programs, ensuring their implementation while advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment. In collaboration with key stakeholders, the Commission has undertaken various initiatives, particularly for vulnerable groups. Below are its key activities from July 2023 to June 2024:

1. CONFERENCES:

i. In August 2023, the NCSW, in collaboration with UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women, and Jazz, organized a two-day National Conference on Digitalization & Women in Pakistan aimed to develop a comprehensive policy framework to enhance women's status through digital technology.

ii. On March 4, 2024, the NCSW, in partnership with PPAF, hosted the National Women's Conference, focusing on economic empowerment and highlighted women's contributions to economic growth and development while exploring initiatives to improve their financial access.

iii. On June 25, 2024, the NCSW, in collaboration with UNFPA and Pathfinder, hosted a conference titled Inclusive Healthcare for Women: Paving the Way Forward to address key health disparities affecting women, including reproductive health, nutritional concerns, and mental well-being.

iv. On June 26, 2024, the NCSW hosted the conference from Vulnerability to Resilience: Gender Climate Action in Pakistan. The discussions centered on the intersection of gender and climate change, the implementation of the Climate and Gender Action Plan, climate literacy education, and investment in women-led climate resilience initiatives.

v. On June 27, 2024, the NCSW, in collaboration with UNFPA, organized the National Conference on Legal Reforms for Women and Girls emphasizing the urgent need for gender-sensitive legal frameworks, women's property rights, combating violence against women, and improving legal protections for minority women and girls with disabilities.

vi. The NCSW, in partnership with UNICEF and the British Council, hosted the national conference Education for Every Woman and Girl aimed to address educational disparities faced by women and girls across Pakistan.



NCSW hold various meetings of National Steering Committee to formulate a Memorandum of Understanding and implementation mechanism to ensure smooth implementation of PM directive at provincial/ regional level.



2. THE ART OF PARENTING MANUALS

NCSW in collaboration with Aga Khan Development Network, Aga Khan University, National Institute of Psychology and Dukhtaran-e-Pakistan drafted Manual on ‘**Art of Parenting**’, an initiative first of its kind in Pakistan, dedicated to advancing parenting practices. These manuals are designed to provide extensive guidance and practical insights, empowering parents to create nurturing, supportive, and development-focused environments for their children.

3. NATIONAL MEDIA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

In collaboration with UNFPA and CEJ, the NCSW conducted a nationwide series of National Media Fellowship programs aimed at increasing gender sensitivity among journalists in Pakistan. The training focused on key issues such as gender-based violence, reproductive health, and child marriage. Over 100 journalists participated in various fellowship programs throughout 2023.

4. AWARENESS RAISING THROUGH CAMPAIGN/ SEMINAR ETC

- In August 2023, NCSW organized an art exhibition at PNCA showcasing works from past poster competitions, Nomad Gallery, and the Czech Embassy to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV).
- NCSW launched Pakistan’s first postage stamp dedicated to combating violence against women, symbolizing a national commitment to addressing GBV.
- The Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry hosted the Blue Fair in Multan to promote women’s entrepreneurship and provide a platform for women-led businesses.
- The National Women’s Trade Fair, co-hosted by NCSW and UN Women at the Islamabad Convention Centre, featured 150+ stalls, highlighting women entrepreneurs, including marginalized groups.
- In collaboration with ICCI, NCSW celebrated Eid Milan with a certificate ceremony recognizing women entrepreneurs from the trade fair.
- NCSW marked International Women’s Day, 2024 at Bahauddin Zakariya University, emphasizing women’s role in education and societal progress.
- During 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, NCSW organized events like Cycling Sunday and seminars to highlight various forms of violence and solutions.
- In collaboration with Zalmi Foundation and Dukhtaran-e-Pakistan, NCSW hosted a Cricket Gala & Tournaments to empower young girls through sports, promoting health, teamwork, and leadership.



5. VISIT TO GILGIT-BALTISTAN - OCTOBER 2023 AND JUNE, 2024

Chairperson NCSW visited Gilgit-Baltistan twice to assess women's status, challenges, and opportunities. Meetings with key officials, including the Chief Minister and Chief Justice, focused on women's participation in decision-making, entrepreneurship, and legislative reforms such as the Child Marriage Restraint Bill and GB Commission on the Status of Women Bill. NCSW praised the formation of a Women's Caucus in the Legislative Assembly and visited the Central Jail, a shelter home, and inaugurated women's development centers in Gilgit and Hunza.



Glimpse of visit to Gilgit-Baltistan

6. CONSULTATION ON CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT BILL, 2023

The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), with support from UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women, organized series of consultation on child marriage across Pakistan to develop actionable strategies to combat child marriage, drafting of the Child Marriage Restraint Bill, protecting young girls from early marriages and severe impacts of child marriage on girls' health and education. In lieu of health factor in case of child marriage, NCSW, Council of Islamic Ideology and UNFPA visited Koochi Got Fistula Center, Karachi to address negative impact of child marriage on the health of young girls.



Consultations on Child Marriage Restraint Bill

7. INTER-PROVINCIAL MINISTERIAL GROUP (IPMG) MEETINGS

The 21st and 22nd Inter-Provincial Ministerial Group (IPMG) meetings, supported by UN Women, were held in Lahore and Peshawar in December 2023 and May, 2024. The discussions focused on gender data's role in advancing equality, strengthening legal rights, improving economic opportunities, and enhancing women's representation in decision-making. Key topics included cross-sector collaboration to reduce gender disparities, policies for women's entrepreneurship, and nationwide implementation of laws such as the Child Marriage Restraint Act.



8. CONSULTATIONS ON 68TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN:

NCSW, in collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, and UNDP, held nationwide consultations on "Need Analysis for Financing and Strengthening Institutions with a Gender Perspective for the Empowerment of Women and Girls" across all provinces and regions. Discussions emphasized a multifaceted approach to gender equality, addressing poverty, cultural barriers, state support for women's education and economic participation, institutional strengthening, and gender-focused financing.

9. PUBLICATION AND REPORTS:

The NCSW launched the report "**Digitalization & Women in Pakistan**," highlighting the need for collaboration to close the digital gender gap and boost women's participation in the digital economy.

In partnership with UN Women, NCSW also released the "**National Report on the Status of Women 2023**" under the INL-funded Tahaffuz program. The report outlines challenges, opportunities, and policy recommendations to advance gender equality. The event also featured the **National Gender Data Portal (NGDP)**, a key tool for consolidating gender statistics to support informed decision-making.



10. MONITORING AND TRACKING:

NCSW exercised powers of the Civil Court, presided by the Chairperson and following is the list of cases on which NCSW worked diligently on:

- i) Visit to Lahore regarding Rizwana torture Case
- ii) Visit of Jaranwala
- iii) Chairperson NCSW & Team visited Sindh to address VAW cases specifically on Fatima Case.
- iv) Continuous follow-up on Noor Muqadam killing and beheading case in court, Islamabad

11. REVIEW OF LAWS AND POLICIES AND GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES:

- i) Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill, 2022
- ii) GB Commission on the Status of Women Bill, 2021
- iii) The Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023 (Amendment in Article 51 to reserve a women seat for ICT)
- iv) The NCSW (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Amendment to include member women with disability)

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILD

Vision

The NCRC envisages Pakistan as a country where every child is heard, protected, respected, and empowered to achieve his/her full potential.

Mission

Promote and protect the fundamental and inalienable rights of each child in Pakistan, as enshrined in Pakistan's international obligations.

Mandate

As an independent statutory body, the NCRC primarily functions as an oversight entity tasked with monitoring and advocating for protecting and fulfilling children's rights across Pakistan. With its mandate firmly rooted in the principles of oversight and advocacy, the NCRC assumes a crucial role in monitoring the implementation of policies, laws, and programs concerning children's rights.

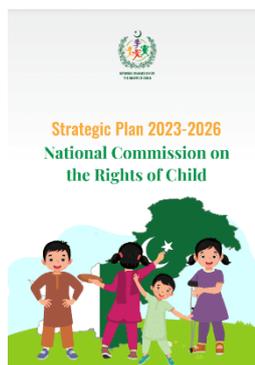
The key functions of the Commission are stated below:

- **Legal & Policy Reforms:** The Commission reviews existing laws protecting children and proposes amendments if necessary.
- **Coordination:** The Commission collaborates with other provincial commissions and organizations to ensure coordinated efforts towards protecting children's rights.
- **Inquiries Related to Child Rights Violations:** The Commission investigates cases of child rights violations and recommends appropriate actions to relevant authorities.
- **Addressing Child Rights Issues:** The Commission identifies obstacles preventing children from enjoying their rights, such as violence and exploitation, and suggests solutions.
- **Research and Database:** It supports child-focused research and maintains a database of important information to inform decision-making.
- **Awareness Raising:** The Commission raises awareness about children's rights in society and educates the public on protection methods.
- **Reviewing International Commitments:** It advises the government on international agreements related to child rights that should be adopted.

Institutional Strengthening

Launch of the NCRC's 3-year Strategic Plan:

The NCRC unveiled a forward-thinking 3-year strategic plan aimed at addressing the evolving landscape of child rights in Pakistan. Informed by extensive consultation with stakeholders and experts, the plan commits to upholding the rights of every child by enforcing evidence-based actions and fostering partnerships across sectors.



Notifying Advisory Committees

Recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives in advancing child rights in Pakistan, the NCRC has established advisory committees comprising child rights experts, religious scholars, and representatives of minority communities. These advisory groups serve as invaluable platforms for gathering insights, perspectives, and recommendations from a wide range of stakeholders, thereby enriching the Commission's understanding of the complex issues surrounding children's rights. The NCRC convenes periodic meetings with these advisory committees, providing opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and exchange of ideas.



Commission Meetings

Institutionalizing periodic Commission meetings facilitated effective communication and decision-making among its members. These periodic meetings served as a crucial platform for gathering the Commission members to discuss progress, challenges, and the way forward. These meetings have enabled the NCRC to streamline its decision-making processes, ensuring that important actions and interventions are undertaken with the full approval and endorsement of the Commission.



Capacity Building

The NCRC has undertaken significant capacity-building efforts to enhance its ability to protect and advocate for children's rights effectively. Through a training session on criminal investigation procedures led by the Punjab Police and a workshop on child labour facilitated by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the NCRC members, staff, and consultants have gained invaluable insights into legal frameworks and procedural formalities. Equipped with this enhanced understanding, the NCRC can better navigate complexities in child rights cases, particularly in addressing child rights complaints and advising the government related to child rights issues.



Progress

Child Domestic Labour

National Level Consultative Process to Shape and Improve the CDL Bill

Following the initial draft of the Prohibition of Child Labour in Domestic Work Bill 2024, the NCRC embarked on a consultative journey to engage key stakeholders in refining and strengthening the proposed legislation. A series of consultations were planned at the provincial level including Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, culminating in a concluding consultation in the federal capital.

The Prohibition of Child Labour in Domestic Work Bill 2024 is set to strengthen legal measures against those involved in engaging children in domestic labour. By making CDL a non-compoundable, non-bailable and cognisable offence, the NCRC aims to communicate that the rights and well-being of children are our top priority. The Bill was sent to the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) for subsequent presentation to the Cabinet. The MoHR forwarded the Bill to Ministry of Interior and is currently being considered by the office of the Joint Secretary Security of the Ministry of Interior.



Access to Education

Recognising the urgency of addressing this issue, the NCRC has taken proactive measures to initiate a consultative process aimed at mainstreaming out-of-school children and enhancing access to quality education for all. The NCRC conducted four consultations, one in each province, to engage stakeholders and discuss the progress of Education Sector Plans, specifically addressing out-of-school children and improving the quality of education in special education schools.



Birth Registration:

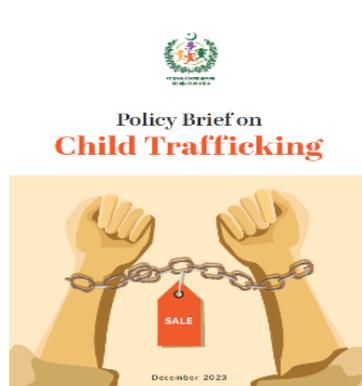
Strengthening Birth Registration at the National Level:

The NCRC reached out to all provincial Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries, urging collective action to address the issue. Subsequent high-level multi-stakeholder meetings were convened with convened with Syed Asif Hyder Shah, Chief Secretary Sindh, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Chief Minister of Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir, Chief Secretary of Balochistan, Zahid Zaman, Chief Secretary Punjab and other provincial departments. These meetings aimed to advocate for implementing a health-interoperable birth registration system aligned with SDG 16.9 and the NCRC's strategic plan. During these engagements, key recommendations were presented to tackle the issue of birth registration effectively, laying the groundwork for collaborative efforts to safeguard the rights of every child in Pakistan.

As a direct outcome of these meetings, provincial governments are actively considering the possibility of waiving birth registration fees to remove financial obstacles to registration. Notably, in Balochistan and Punjab, significant developments have been made with the initiation of a steering committee comprising representatives from the Health Department, Local Government, UNICEF Pakistan, NADRA, and NCRC. These committees are tasked to lead efforts to enhance birth registration rates.

Child Trafficking:

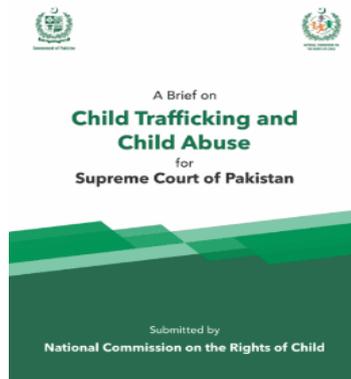
The NCRC launched its Policy Brief on Child Trafficking in a ceremony held in Islamabad coupled with a panel discussion. This comprehensive document aimed at addressing the multifaceted issue of child trafficking in Pakistan provides an in-depth analysis of the current landscape, challenges faced, and recommendations for effective prevention and intervention strategies. It reflects the complexities of child trafficking and offers targeted solutions to combat this grave violation of children's rights.



Child Protection:

Brief to Supreme Court on Child Trafficking and Child Sexual Abuse:

The NCRC submitted a detailed brief to the Supreme Court, focusing on child trafficking, abuse, and cruelty. The document offers a deep understanding of Pakistan's socio-economic and cultural landscape, highlighting the context in which these issues arise. It meticulously analyses existing legal frameworks, including the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018 (PTPA), to pinpoint shortcomings. Furthermore, the brief explores international legal instruments and proposes legislative and institutional reforms to address these critical challenges.



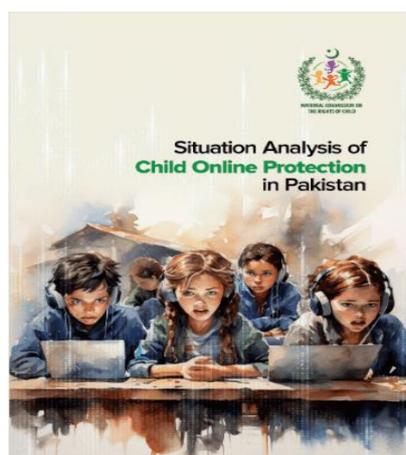
Child Marriage:

Advocacy for Raising Minimum Marriage Age to 18 Years

The NCRC spearheaded advocacy efforts aimed at raising the minimum marriageable age for both boys and girls to 18 years. To advance this cause, the NCRC engaged with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Human Rights, provincial Social Welfare and Law Ministries, and Chief Ministers, through targeted efforts advocating for legislative amendments. The proposed amendment seeks to establish 18 years as the minimum age for marriage, aligning with international standards such as the UNCRC and recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The proposed amendments are also in line with the constitutional principles of equality and non-discrimination, particularly Articles 25 and 35 of the Constitution of Pakistan emphasis equal protection under the law and prohibit discrimination based on gender.

Review of Child Marriage Restraint Amendment Bill 2023

The NCRC thoroughly reviewed the Child Marriage Restraint Amendment Bill 2023, drafted by the Law and Justice Division in collaboration with the NCSW, proposing amendments to the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 for Islamabad Capital Territory.



Digital Safety

Situational Analysis of Child Online Protection in Pakistan

The NCRC launched the Situational Analysis of Child Online Protection in Pakistan in a ceremony held at Telenor Headquarters. This comprehensive report delves into various aspects of online child protection, providing valuable insights into the current landscape and offering recommendations for stakeholders at all levels.

Launch of Guidebook for Parents, Teachers & Children on Digital Safety:

The NCRC, in collaboration with Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), UNICEF, and Telenor Pakistan, held a launching ceremony for the parental guide titled "Safeguarding your Child in the Digital Age"- a guide for parents and caregivers. Representatives from the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecom (MoIT&T), PTA, Telenor, NCRC, and UNICEF Pakistan also graced the ceremony with their presence.



Social Media Campaign on Digital Safety

The success of the recent social media campaign led by the NCRC in collaboration with Meta and Zindagi Trust unfolded over five impactful days, captivated audiences and generated an astounding 24 million impressions collectively. A total of five videos were disseminated on digital safety, including:



Child Participation

Children's Consultations

In collaboration with UNICEF, the NCRC spearheaded a series of children-led consultations on child rights, sparking a nationwide dialogue. The first of these consultations was "Children in the Lead: Voices Unleashed", held at the National Assembly of Pakistan, where young advocates addressed critical issues like child labour, marriage, and education. Subsequently consultations were held in Multan, Quetta, Peshawar, and Hyderabad, engaging children who expressed the urgency of addressing pressing challenges, prompting policymakers and stakeholders to prioritise child-centric policies.



Colour of Dreams: Embassy of Spain's Art Competition – A Celebration of World's Children Day:

The NCRC, in partnership with the Embassy of Spain, organised the 'Color of Dreams: Embassy of Spain's Art Competition on Child Rights,' engaging 310 children from diverse educational backgrounds from public, private and children with special needs.



Every Girl Leading the Way - World Children's Day

In collaboration with PGGA and UNICEF, the NCRC organised the event "Every Girl Leading the Way" on World Children's Day, emphasising girls' pivotal role in shaping the future.



Redressal Mechanism for Child Rights Violations:

The NCRC's commitment to the well-being of children remained strong as it addressed **322** complaints related to children's rights in the reporting period April 2023 to March 2024.

CHAPTER-III

Demand 51-Current Expenditure, Human Rights Division for FY 2023-24

Sl. No.	Detail Object Description	Original Grant	Final Grant
1.	Fund FC21H04-Human Rights Division, Demand No. 51	2,242,673,000	2,115,301,585
2.	IB3189 - SOCIAL SERVICES MEDICAL CENTRE (FGSH) ISLAMABAD	7,569,000	6,793,530
3.	IB3190 - RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE PUNJGRAN ISLAMABAD	21,397,000	26,806,182
4.	IB3191 - FAMILY PROTECTION & REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR WOMEN ISLAMABAD	35,900,000	45,932,000
5.	IB3192 - NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CHILD WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT ISLAMABAD	14,500,000	15,652,464
6.	IB3193 - IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN ISLAMABAD	10,281,000	4,844,846
7.	IB3195 - NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL WELFARE ISLAMABAD	20,000,000	17,140,469
8.	IB3196 - DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION	145,000,000	174,604,000
9.	IB3197 - NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (NCSW) ISLAMABAD	110,000,000	110,904,000
10.	IB3199 - HOUSING COLONY FOR TEACHERS AND STAFF OF DGSE SECTOR I-9/4	10,800,000	0
11.	IB3201 - MODEL CHILD WELFARE CENTRE HUMMAK ISLAMABAD	28,790,000	29,066,897
12.	IB3202 - NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN NCRC ISLAMABAD	55,000,000	70,003,632
13.	IB3203 - VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION & EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS SC-1 ISLAMABAD	18,500,000	15,587,000
14.	IB3204 - PILOT COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE SOHAN ISLAMABAD	14,400,000	16,965,320
15.	IB3205 - NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE FOR SPECIAL PERSONS G9/2 ISLAMABAD	72,000,000	83,541,000
16.	IB3206 - PILOT SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK CENTRE ISLAMABAD	5,432,000	1,865,430
17.	IB3207 - NATIONAL MOBILITY & INDEPENDENCE TRAINING CENTRE ISLAMABAD	18,500,000	17,114,000
18.	IB3208 - REHABILITATION UNIT VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION & EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS ISLAMABAD	12,195,000	9,912,000
19.	IB3209 - PROVISION OF HOSTEL FACILITIES AT NSEC VHC ISLAMABAD	14,812,000	14,838,360
20.	IB3210 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE NOON ISLAMABAD	13,257,000	15,980,558

Sl. No.	Detail Object Description	Original Grant	Final Grant
21.	IB3211 - NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION CENTRE ISLAMABAD	18,500,000	12,447,448
22.	IB3212 - NATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTRE FOR VISUALLY HANDICAPED CHILDREN	90,000,000	99,506,000
23.	IB3213 - NATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTRE FOR HEARING IISLAM	159,000,000	198,213,000
24.	IB3214 - WOMEN WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE ISLAMABAD	40,538,000	38,437,721
25.	IB3215 - COUNCIL ON RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)	19,955,000	17,344,553
26.	IB3216 - NATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTRE FOR PHC ISLAMABAD	70,000,000	84,973,000
27.	IB3217 - NATIONAL BRAILLE PRESS ISLAMABAD	12,390,000	14,119,000
28.	IB3218 - REHABILITATION CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENT DISORDERS ISLAMABAD	81,000,000	105,188,000
29.	IB3219 - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPECIALEDUCATION	45,167,000	46,896,000
30.	IB3220 - NATIONAL LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTRE ISLAMABAD	21,000,000	27,017,000
31.	IB3221 - SOCIAL WELFARE TRAINING INSTITUTE ISLAMABAD	25,500,000	29,036,102
32.	IB3224 - HUMAN RIGHTS RELIEF AND REVOLVING FUND	6,500,000	4,225,000
33.	IB3226 - ICT CHILD PROTECTION INSTITUTE ISLAMABAD	29,000,000	34,454,898
34.	IB3522 - ZAINAB ALERT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY AGENCY (ZAARA) ISLAMABAD	9,580,000	5,000,115
35.	IB3674 - LEGAL AID AND JUSTICE AUTHORITY M/OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISB.	58,946,000	21,487,613
36.	IB5233 - IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION AND MEDICAL CENTERS	180,000,000	49,088,000
37.	IB9256 - PROVISION FOR INCREASE IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES (HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION)	145,120,000	0
38.	ID8361 - HUMAN RIGHTS(MAIN) ISLAMABAD	523,854,000	569,514,728
39.	KA3025-HUMAN RIGHTS REGIONAL OFFICE KARACHI	20,725,000	21,562,493
40.	LO4002 - HUMAN RIGHTS REGIONAL OFFICE LAHORE	24,300,000	24,957,360
41.	PR1060 - HUMAN RIGHTS REGIONAL OFFICE PESHAWAR	18,600,000	16,996,867
42.	QA9009 - HUMAN RIGHTS REGIONAL OFFICE QUETTA	14,665,000	17,284,999

GLOSSARY

1. ADB: Asian Development Bank
2. BPFA: Beijing Platform for Action
3. BHR: Business and Human Rights
4. BISP: Benazir Income Support Programme
5. CAREC: Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
6. CAT: Convention Against Torture
7. CBA: Child Protection Institute
8. CDC: Community Development Centre
9. CDA: Capital Development Authority
10. CDWP: Central Development Working Party
11. CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
12. CEJ: Centre for Excellence in Journalism
13. CERD: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
14. CPIMS: Child Protection Information Management System
15. CRPD: Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
16. DDWP: Departmental Development Working Party
17. DGSE: Directorate General of Special Education
18. EPADS: Electronic Project Automation and Data System
19. FATA: Federally Administered Tribal Areas
20. FPRC: Family Protection & Rehabilitation Centre
21. FST: Federal Service Tribunal
22. FY: Fiscal Year
23. GANHRI: Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
24. GBV: Gender-Based Violence
25. HEC: Higher Education Commission
26. HRIMS: Human Rights Information Management System
27. ICCI: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry
28. ICCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
29. ICERD: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
30. ICESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
31. ICT: Islamabad Capital Territory
32. ILO: International Labour Organization
33. INL: Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
34. IRM: International Rehabilitation Medicine
35. JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency
36. JPP: Justice Project Pakistan
37. LAJA: Legal Aid and Justice Authority
38. LHV: Lady Health Visitors
39. MCH: Maternal and Child Health
40. MoHR: Ministry of Human Rights
41. NADRA: National Database and Registration Authority
42. NCHR: National Commission for Human Rights
43. NCRC: National Commission on the Rights of Child
44. NCSW: National Commission on the Status of Women
45. NCERT: National Council of Educational Research and Training
46. NITB: National Information Technology Board
47. NMDs: Newly Merged Districts

48. NMRF: National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up
49. NTC: National Telecommunication Corporation
50. NTISB: National Telecommunication and Information Security Board
51. NAVTTC: National Vocational and Technical Training Commission
52. OIC: Organization of Islamic Cooperation
53. OPD: Outpatient Department
54. PC-I to PC-V: Project Cycle documents (I to V)
55. PGA: Pakistan Girls Guide
56. PGGA: Pakistan Girls Guide Association
57. PIC: Pakistan Information Commission
58. PIMS: Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences
59. PJN: Pakistan Justice Network
60. PMDU: Prime Minister's Delivery Unit
61. PNCA: Pakistan National Council of the Arts
62. PPAF: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
63. PPRA: Public Procurement Regulatory Authority
64. PSDP: Public Sector Development Programme
65. PTA: Pakistan Telecommunications Authority
66. PTPA: Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act
67. PWDs: Persons with Disabilities
68. Sahil: A non-governmental organization working on child protection
69. SCO: Shanghai Cooperation Organization
70. SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
71. SIFC: Special Investment Facilitation Council
72. SMEDA: Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority
73. SSMC: Social Services Medical Centre
74. SWTI: Social Welfare Training Institute
75. Tahaffuz: Protection (a program name)
76. UPR: Universal Periodic Review
77. UNCAT: United Nations Convention Against Torture
78. UNCRC: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
79. UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
80. UNESCAP: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
81. UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
82. UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
83. UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
84. UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
85. VAWG: Violence Against Women and Girls
86. Wafaqi Mohtasib: Federal Ombudsman
87. WDO: Women Development Organization
88. ZARRA: Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency

