



Annual Report 2023-2024



UMEED PARTNERSHIP PAKISTAN (UPP)

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UMEED ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECTS



Education



Democracy



Skills Training



Peace Building



Human Rights



INTRODUCTION

Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) is a non-political, non-profit organization registered under the Societies Act of 1860 with Registration No. 764, dated April 18, 2001, in Quetta. It is also registered with the Baluchistan Charities Registration and Regulation Authority, Government of Baluchistan, under Registration No. BCRA-114349, dated January 12, 2021. UPP received certification from the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) on April 29, 2021, under Certification No. PCP-2021/828.

UPP is a multi-faith, humanitarian organization committed to the development and promotion of human rights. It began its operations in the year 2000 in the tribal areas of Baluchistan, and its work has since expanded to Southern and Central Punjab.

Umeed Partnership exists to provide opportunities in education, vocational training, and human rights awareness to vulnerable and disadvantaged girls, women, transgender individuals, and street children in Punjab and Baluchistan. Over time, the organization has evolved into a comprehensive women's support body, extending its services to victims of abduction, rape, forced conversion, forced marriages, widowhood, disease, domestic violence, torture, human trafficking, forced labor, and marginalized transgender communities.

UPP primarily focuses on empowering women, street children, religious minorities, and transgender individuals through education, skills training, legal aid, direct assistance, and rights awareness programs. UPP envisions a society where women, girls, children, and transgender individuals achieve economic freedom and have the autonomy to make decisions about their own lives.

Across all districts, UPP operates adult literacy centers for illiterate women and girls, provides education to street children—especially girls—through its Umeed Schools, and offers human rights training to women, children, and transgender individuals. The organization also delivers legal aid and direct support to survivors of gender-based violence and exploitation, and facilitates the formation of interfaith peace committees among women. Furthermore, UPP conducts physical, psychological, and digital security training—particularly for women human rights defenders, survivors of violence, and staff of relevant organizations and institutions.

UPP actively promotes the rights of religious minorities and gender equality at all levels. It is deeply committed to the socio-economic upliftment and protection of human rights in Pakistan. Through its work, UPP seeks to dismantle unjust structures and empower communities. It operates at the grassroots level while also engaging with policymakers and partnering with all who are dedicated to human dignity and liberation.

VISION:

Umeed Partnership Pakistan envisions a just and inclusive society where women, girls, children, transgender individuals, and marginalized communities are empowered, economically

MISSION:

To advance human rights and gender equality by delivering inclusive education, vocational training, legal aid, business development, democracy and awareness programs that uplift disadvantaged women, street children, transgender individuals, and religious minorities across Pakistan. UPP works at the grassroots level to foster empowerment, justice, and dignity for all.

GOAL:

To dismantle oppressive social structures and create sustainable opportunities for the socio-economic and human rights development of marginalized populations, enabling them to lead secure, self-reliant, and dignified lives.

UMEED'S FOCAL SECTORS INCLUDE

HUMAN RIGHTS:

- Human Rights and democratic education
- Empowerment of women and elimination of gender disparities
- Capacity enhancement of women's groups and civil society organizations
- Research and documentation
- Interfaith harmony and peace building

DEVELOPMENT:

- Promotion of entrepreneurship and development of small business skills
- Formal and non-formal education
- Socio-economic empowerment of the poor
- Assisting women in distress through free legal aid

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Shamim Gulzar



As we reflect on the journey of the past year, we are reminded of the transformative power of education, skills training, and democratic engagement in shaping a brighter future for displaced and the most disadvantaged women in Baluchistan and the Punjab. At our NGO, we have been steadfast in our mission to empower these women, providing them with the tools they need to reclaim their dignity, secure sustainable livelihoods, and become active participants in their communities.

In Baluchistan and the Punjab, where economic hardship and displacement have strained the lives of many women, our programs have aimed to bridge the gap between vulnerability and

opportunity. Through our education initiatives, we have seen women gaining not only literacy and numeracy skills but also the confidence to pursue further education and professional opportunities. We are proud of the growing number of women who are now able to send their children to school, becoming role models of resilience for future generations.

Skills training has been at the heart of our work. We have focused on equipping displaced and vulnerable women with marketable skills, whether in sewing, computer literacy, or small-scale entrepreneurship. These skills have provided them with a sense of purpose and self-sufficiency, which is vital in breaking the cycle of poverty. Moreover, many of our graduates have gone on to establish their own small businesses, creating jobs not just for themselves but for others in their communities.

One of the cornerstones of our approach has been the promotion of democratic values. In a region where women's voices are often marginalized, we have prioritized creating spaces where they can engage in decision-making processes. By fostering leadership skills and encouraging political participation, we are seeing more women take active roles in local governance and community advocacy, contributing to the growth of a more inclusive and democratic society.

While much has been accomplished, the road ahead is long. We remain committed to continuing our efforts and expanding our reach, ensuring that no woman is left behind. The unwavering dedication of our team, the invaluable support of our partners, and the resilience of the women we serve are what make this work possible. Together, we are building a future where displaced and vulnerable women not only survive but thrive.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey. Your support fuels our work and propels us toward achieving a more equitable and empowered tomorrow for all women in Baluchistan and Punjab.

With gratitude and hope,
Shamim Gulzar
Director – UPP

FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

A. Formal Education

Umeed Middle Schools

B. Non-formal education

1. Adult Literacy Program (ALP)
2. Socio-economic empowerment of displaced women Quetta sponsored by UN Women.

A. FORMAL EDUCATION

UMEED MIDDLE SCHOOLS

In Pakistan, Umeed Partnership provides education at all levels, irrespective of caste, creed, or gender. The communities served by Umeed have some of the lowest education rates in the world. In urban areas, these communities live on the fringes and peripheries of cities, often forming impoverished slums. In rural areas, they reside outside main villages and towns, where there is no access to basic infrastructure or development. They lack schools, healthcare, sanitation facilities, roads, and opportunities for social interaction.

Umeed established two middle schools for Dalit and other highly disadvantaged communities in the Cholistan Desert, District Bahawalpur, Southern Punjab, Pakistan—an area with a 100% illiteracy rate at the time. In 2007, a middle school was opened for the community in Village 18/BC, Bahawalpur. In 2009, another middle school was opened for the community in Village 52/DB, Yazman.

Both schools continue to provide quality education to approximately 300 students, including both girls and boys. Umeed fully funds the day-to-day operations of these schools, as the students' families are unable to contribute financially to their education.



A. NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

1. ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM (ALP)

CERTIFICATE AWARDING CEREMONY BAHAWALPUR REGION

The graduation ceremony for the successful women students of the Adult Literacy Program (ALP), Session 13 (February to October 2023), was held in November 2023 at Chak No. 18/DNB, District Bahawalpur. A total of 220 women received their certificates.

The honorable guests, Mr. Nasir Justus, ALP Project In-Charge, and Mr. Yousuf Jalal Gill, Project Coordinator at UPP, graced the occasion. The entire community of Chak No. 18/DNB, along with residents from surrounding villages, participated in the program. It was a joyful occasion, and the attendees were delighted to be part of the celebration.

During 2023, UPP operated 80 Adult Literacy Centers across Punjab and Baluchistan, with each center enrolling 20 to 25 women students. The program consisted of nine months of training.



Congratulation

CERTIFICATE AWARDING CEREMONY QUETTA REGION

The graduation ceremony for the successful women students of the Adult Literacy Program (ALP), Session 13 (February to October 2023), was held in November 2023 in Quetta. A total of 210 women students received their certificates.

The honorable guests, Mr. Nasir Justus, ALP Project In-Charge, and Mr. Yousuf Jalal Gill, Project Coordinator at UPP, graced the occasion. It was a joyful moment for the graduating women, who were proud to participate in the ceremony.

In 2023, UPP operated 80 Adult Literacy Centers across Punjab and Baluchistan, with 20 to 25 women participating in each center. The program spanned nine months of training.



The education and empowerment of women throughout the world cannot fail to result in a more caring, tolerant, just and peaceful life for all.

— Aung San Suu Kyi —

INAUGURATION OF ADULT LITERACY CENTERS

BAHAWALPUR DISTRICT

Under the project "Adult Literacy Program (ALP) Session 14 (February – October 2024)," funded by the Pakistan Bible Society, Lahore, UPP inaugurated 70 adult literacy centers (each with 20–25 students) for illiterate women and girls in Punjab and Baluchistan.

In February 2024, UPP conducted training sessions for teachers and supervisors in the Cholistan villages of District Bahawalpur.



A good education is the
most important gift we can
give our young people

Nicola Sturgeon

QUETTA DISTRICT

Under the project "Adult Literacy Program (ALP) session 14 (February - October 2024) funded by Pakistan Bible Society Lahore UPP inaugurated 70 adult literacy centres (each centre 20-25 students) for illiterate women/girls in Punjab and Baluchistan. UPP conducted training session for teachers and supervisors during the month of February 2024 for Quetta.



**TRY NOT TO HAVE A GOOD
TIME... THIS IS SUPPOSED
TO BE EDUCATIONAL.**

CHARLES M SCHULZ

2. SOCIOECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DISPLACED WOMEN QUETTA

ORIENTATION SESSION

Under the project title "Socio-Economic Empowerment of Displaced Women in Quetta, Baluchistan, Pakistan" the UN Women team conducted orientation session with UPP Project staff on 26th October 2023 at auditorium Hall Jan Luxury hotel Quetta. Thanks to the UN Women team for conducting such an informative and inspiring session.



**Training is not an
expense, but an
investment in
human capital.**

Roy H. Williams

ORIENTATION AND PROJECT BRIEFING SESSION FOR 30 TEACHERS AND TRAINERS ALONG WITH PROJECT STAFF

Under the project title "Socio-Economic Empowerment of Displaced Women in Quetta, Baluchistan, Pakistan" a full day orientation and project briefing session was held for 30 teachers and trainers along with project staff on 27th October 2023 at auditorium Hall Jan Luxury hotel Quetta. The facilitators for the session were Shamin Gulzar Director UPP, Yousaf Gill project coordinator and Hamida Hazara project supervisor. The topic covered during the session were:

Skills and business development

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Secondary Traumatic Stress/Compassion

Secondary Trauma



2-DAY ADULT LITERACY TRAINING

Under the project titled "Socio-Economic Empowerment of Displaced Women in Quetta, Baluchistan, Pakistan," a 2-day Adult Literacy Training was held for teachers and supervisors on 28th–29th October 2023 at Umeed Partnership Pakistan's office in Quetta. The training facilitator was Shamin Gulzar, Director of UPP.



It's not about perfect. It's about effort. And when you bring that effort every single day, that's where transformation happens. That's how change occurs.

Jillian Michaels

3-DAY TRAINING OF TRAINERS

Under the project titled "Socio-Economic Empowerment of Displaced Women in Quetta, Baluchistan, Pakistan," a 3-day Training of Trainers (ToT) was organized by UPP from 6–8 March 2024 in Quetta. The training aimed to build the capacity of 16 Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) from 8 NGOs and organizations based in Quetta, equipping them to serve as facilitators and replicate the training with 705 women trainees across 30 skill training centres dedicated to Afghan and Hazara displaced women in the region.

The facilitators were trained to support the women trainees in developing and strengthening their vocational and business skills, with a focus on starting and managing small-scale enterprises. The training also aimed to equip women with managerial and productive skills to initiate or enhance home- and market-based businesses.

Key topics covered included:

- Who an entrepreneur is
- Why people go into business
- The key skills required to be a successful entrepreneur
- How to generate business ideas
- Common reasons businesses fail
- The basics of customer care

The second component of the training focused on psycho-social support, including self-care, well-being, mental health, and stress management skills.

The final session addressed Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). During this session, participants engaged in open and meaningful discussions about their concerns and fears related to this critical issue. Their reflections provided valuable feedback for future interventions.





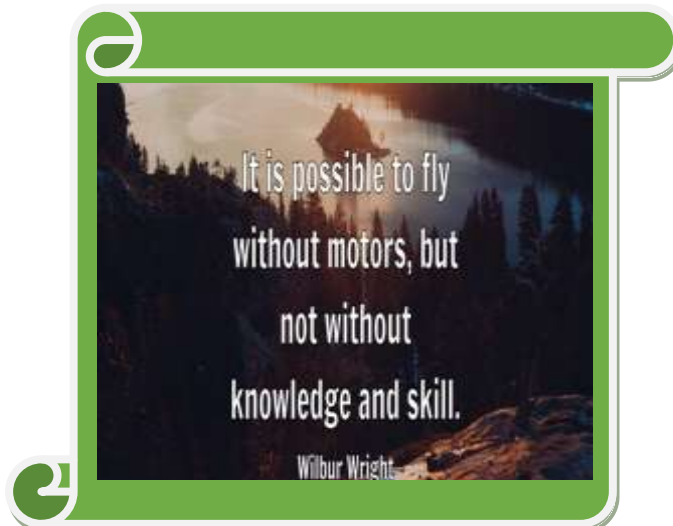
6 COMPUTERS TRAINING CENTRES

Under the project titled "Socio-Economic Empowerment of Displaced Women in Quetta, Baluchistan, Pakistan," six computer training centres are being operated for displaced women in various parts of Quetta. Each centre hosts 20 to 25 women and girls daily for three-hour sessions, except on Sundays. The centres are being conducted at the homes of the trainers. The training course has a duration of seven months and is funded by UN Women.



6 CULTURAL SHOE AND DECORATION PIECES MAKING **TRAINING CENTRES**

Under the project titled "Socio-Economic Empowerment of Displaced Women in Quetta, Baluchistan, Pakistan," six training centres for traditional shoe-making and decorative crafts are being operated for displaced women in various parts of Quetta. Each centre hosts 20 to 25 women and girls daily for three-hour sessions, except on Sundays. The centres are conducted at the homes of the trainers. The training program has a duration of seven months and is funded by UN Women.



6 EMBROIDERY TRAINING CENTRES

Under the project titled "Socio-Economic Empowerment of Displaced Women in Quetta, Baluchistan, Pakistan," six embroidery training centres are being run for displaced women in various parts of Quetta. Each centre accommodates 20 to 25 women and girls daily for three-hour sessions, except on Sundays. The centres are operated at the homes of the trainers. The training course spans seven months and is funded by UN Women.



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Be a lifelong student.

The more you
learn, the more
you earn and more
self confidence
you will have.

Brian Tracy

6 ADULT LITERACY CENTRES

Under the project titled "Socio-Economic Empowerment of Displaced Women in Quetta, Baluchistan, Pakistan," six Adult Literacy Centres are being run for displaced women in various parts of Quetta. Each centre accommodates 20 to 25 women and girls daily for three-hour sessions, except on Sundays. The centres are operated at the homes of the teachers. The literacy course has a duration of seven months and is funded by UN Women.



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Upon the subject of
education... I can only say
that I view it as the most
important subject which we
as a people may be engaged
in.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

6 SEWING/TAILORING TRAINING CENTRES

Under the project titled "Socio-Economic Empowerment of Displaced Women in Quetta, Baluchistan, Pakistan," six sewing and tailoring training centres are being operated for displaced women in various parts of Quetta. Each centre accommodates 20 to 25 women and girls daily for three-hour sessions, except on Sundays. The centres are held at the homes of the trainers. The training course lasts for seven months and is funded by UN Women.



Skill is the unified
force of experience,
intellect and passion
in their operation.

John Ruskin

MS. SABA ABBASI FROM UN WOMEN VISITED SOME OF OUR CENTRES

Ms. Saba Abbasi from UN Women visited several of our centres in Quetta on Monday, 18 March 2024, to observe the progress and assess the quality of the trades and skills being taught. She was very pleased to see the excellent work being carried out at these centres to support displaced women in Quetta on their path to financial independence as skilled workers and entrepreneurs. Ms. Saba also visited the UPP office in Quetta and had a productive and engaging meeting with the project staff.



15 SESSIONS

In May 2024, a total of 15 sessions were facilitated by trained facilitators on economic empowerment, mental health, self-care, and well-being for 705 displaced women from 30 centres across Quetta. These centres include sewing, embroidery, traditional shoe-making and decorative crafts, computer training, and adult literacy centres.

The sessions aimed to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge to excel in business and entrepreneurship. Each session was attended by more than 40 participants and lasted over three hours, covering the following topics:

- Mental health and self-care
- Physical exercises
- Legal aspects of starting a business
- Customer care
- Entrepreneurship fundamentals
- Requirements for establishing, running, and growing a business
- Marketing strategies



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES (CC & I) QUETTA **VISIT**

From 21–23 May 2024, a total of 360 women from various trades—including sewing, embroidery, and traditional shoe and decorative item making—visited the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CC&I) Quetta over the course of three days in groups. Each group of trainees spent the entire day at the CC&I, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., where they were warmly welcomed and facilitated by Mr. Aga Gul, Senior Assistant Director of CC&I; Ms. Mehvish Kenval Janjua, President of the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (WCC&I); Ms. Huma Baluch, Senior Vice President of WCC&I; and other CC&I staff members.

The CC&I administration was delighted and inspired to see such a large number of women entering the institution over three days. They shared that, in the history of CC&I, they had never seen so many women gathered there due to cultural, gender, and religious restrictions. However, they expressed great honor and pride in hosting the women and noted that registering such a significant number of women-led businesses in the near future would be a remarkable milestone for CC&I.

The administration assured the participants that the doors of CC&I would always remain open to them, encouraging them to return for guidance and support. They emphasized that the staff would be ready to assist the women in every possible way to help them become entrepreneurs and business owners.



MARKET VISITS

From 06–13 June 2024, 360 women from various trades—such as sewing, embroidery, and traditional shoe and decorative item making (from 18 centres)—visited various markets in Quetta in small groups. During these visits, they showcased their product samples to shopkeepers, who expressed interest and promised to place orders or purchase their finished products.





Come and join Umeed:

Become partners of Hope
 Hope for a better and just world;
 Hope for men and women's equality;
 Hope to strengthen the hopeless and those in despair.
 Hope for the better democracy among the disadvantaged communities.

Join us to support our program of

Human Rights Training for women and street children (Just Society)
 Economic freedom for women and street children (vocational)
 Girls' & boys' education (schools)
 Rehabilitation of women in distress (Legal Aid)
 Talent Development (Youth)
 Peace building and interfaith harmony (tolerant society)

Help Umeed in providing:

Administrative and skills-based support
 Tools and materials (in-kind)
 Financial support
 Support as volunteers

Visit or write to us:

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