

50 Women Peace Architects selected

SHE – The Peacebuilder is a one-year-long project which aims to increase the capacity of fifty (50) selected women peace architects (WPAs) around transforming violent extremism (TVE) from all over Pakistan. It is funded by Search for Common Ground (SFCG). The project's objectives are two-fold.

The first objective is to increase the capacity of 'women peace architects' to participate in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes.

The second objective is to increase coordination and collaboration among WPAs, government and civil society stakeholders and cultural influencers in responding to violent extremism.

These fifty women have been selected from a wide range of thematic areas such as politics, social activists, athletes, sports, lawyers, university students, media personnel, journalists, religious, ethnic minorities, women with disabilities and transgender women.



Project Startup Workshop

SHE - The Peacebuilder: A new peace initiative

A one-day project startup workshop was held in a local hotel in Islamabad on 7th July 2022 which brought all the implementing partners of the project 'SHE – The Peacebuilder' together for the first time to discuss and debate what their roles and responsibilities will be during the project.

The startup workshop was divided into three sessions with the first session of the day being the introduction session. In this session, Mr. Shahid Rahim, senior manager SFCG, and Ms. Mumtaz Mughal explained the aims and objectives of the project.

In the second session of the workshop, the partners briefed each other about their organization's project work plans and how they will implement the project activities over the course of one year. Discussion regarding the project design and its activities was held in this session.

The final session was regarding the way forward and the key takeaways which all the participants had agreed upon during the startup workshop.

The startup workshop had participants from Aurat Foundation, Kadam Communications and Consultants (KCC) and Search for Common Ground (SFCG).

We will transform society: Lahore WPAs



Ms. Mumtaz Mughal, project manager, held a meeting with nine (09) women peace architects (WPAs) in Lahore on Tuesday 18th October 2022. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the WPAs about future project-related activities and brief them regarding the purpose and objectives of the project.

The WPAs belonged to different backgrounds and they all bring their own unique experiences and understanding regarding TVE/CVE to the group. Under this project, the WPAs will be trained on different topics such as transforming/countering violent extremism (T/CVE), and leadership skills. Apart from these trainings, the WPAs will be engaged in other activities as well such as TVE circles with experts from different fields and consultative working groups (CWGs) with stakeholders. They expressed determination to transform society and strengthen women's role in peacebuilding.

Quetta WPAs eager to promote peace

Ms. Mumtaz Mughal, project manager, gave a brief presentation to the gathered participants on 13th October 2022 in Quetta district under the She – the Peacebuilder project.

All women peace architects (WPAs) were very much excited to become WPAs and on being a part of this project. The WPAs were from different walks of life and they represented the private and public sectors. They wanted to play their role at community, district and provincial levels. Most of the women are already engaged in peacebuilding activities in their professional lives.

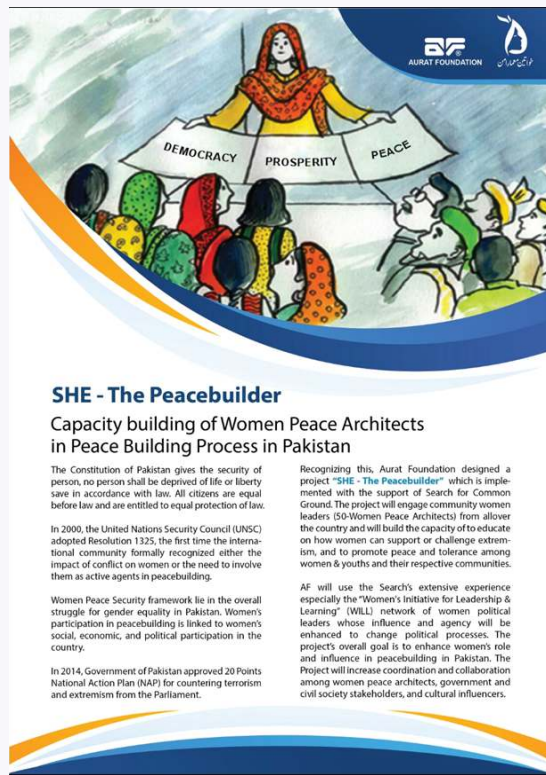
It was observed that most of WPAs were very active and had the potential to lead the peace process in their region in the future. In the meeting, it was decided that they will identify the different avenues of public, political and private spheres where they can involve themselves and work further on peacebuilding.



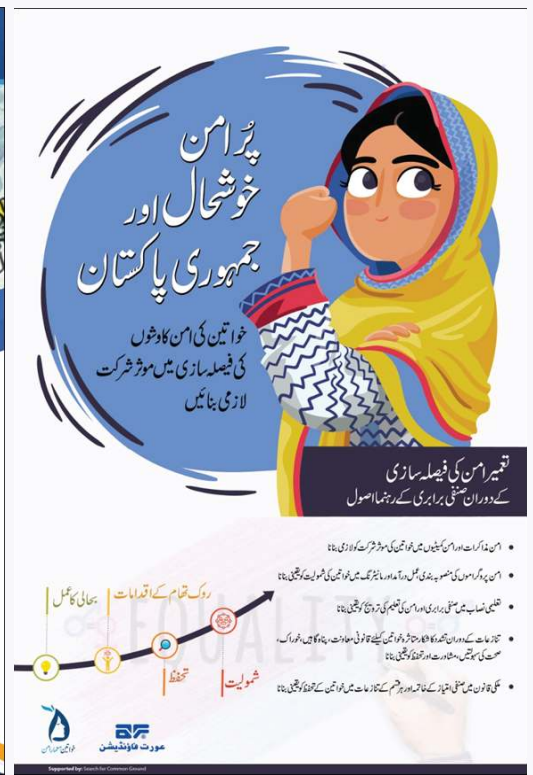
Designing of the poster and flyer of the project finalized

The designs of the flyer and poster of the project were finalized after extensive deliberations with the project donor, Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and the US embassy.

The project flyer has all the relevant details related to the project such as objectives and expected results of the project as well as the criteria under which the fifty (50) women peace architects have been selected.



FLYER



POSTER

Mission Visit of SFCG delegation to AF head office



A four-member team of SFCG visited Aurat Foundation's head office in Islamabad for a brief visit on 30th August 2022.

The visiting delegation consisted of Mr. Rajendra Mulmi, SFCG's Asia Regional Director, Mr. Asad Jan, Country Representative, SFCG, Mr. Shiva Ji, M&E Specialist, SFCG, and Mr. Shahid Rahim, senior manager, SFCG.

The Aurat Foundation team which hosted the delegation comprised Mr. Naem Ahmed Mirza, Executive Director, Mr. Asim Malik, Project Advisor, Ms. Mumtaz Mughal, Project Manager, She the Peacebuilder and Mr. Waqar Ahmed, Program Officer, She the Peacebuilder.

Mr. Rajendra Mulmi said that they are very excited to work with AF and they want to explore further opportunities for mutual collaboration in the future.



Implementing partners agree on identifying and selecting text and graphical messages in workshop

A two-day Messaging Development Workshop (MDW) was held on 27th and 28th September 2022 in Roomy Signature Hotel, Islamabad. The workshop was organized by Kadam Communications and Consultants (KCC) and around 27 members including women peace architects, cultural influencers, technical experts, and team members of AF, SFCG, Glow and a representative from the US Embassy participated in the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to develop a messaging framework and discuss and identify themes/topics for audio messages, illustrations, radio programs, animated stories, and a thematic song under the SHE – The Peacebuilder project. The

workshop was aimed at bringing consensus on type, tone and method for creating messages, keeping in view the target audience, gender sensitivities and project priorities.

MDW provided the basic framework for the message development and themes/topics were discussed and identified in the context of the target audience and project objective. Whereas, refinement, change and improvement of messages will be ensured through content advisory group meetings.

Ms. Naina Samson, a young woman peace architect, journalist, rights activist, and development professional from Peshawar moderated the workshop.

M&E capacity-building workshop for implementing partners held

A one-day capacity-building monitoring and evaluation (M&E) workshop was held on 1st September 2022 in Islamabad under the SHE – The Peacebuilder project. This workshop was organized by GLOW consultants and was facilitated by Mr. Shiva Kumar Dungana, senior manager SFCG.

The workshop included participants from all the organizations which are implementing SFCG-funded projects in Pakistan.

The workshop was regarding the fundamental concepts of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and Mr. Shiva took the participants through topics such



as the basic monitoring cycle, the difference between M&E, understanding change and the different types of change, theory of change and how to write stories in the one-day session.

AF signs MOUs with gender and human rights institutions



Ms Shabina Ayaz signing MoU with Dr Faizullah, HOD of department of mass communication.



Prof Dr Raana Malik of UOP signing MoU with Ms Sarah Sheraz in Lahore.



Ms Mahnaz Rahman with Chairperson SCSW Ms Nuzhat Shirin after MoU signing.



Mr Allauddin Khilji signing MoU with Ms Farkhanda from NCHR.



Ms Fauzia Shaheen of PCSW signing MoU with Mr Allauddin Khilji in Quetta

The regional offices of Aurat Foundation have signed MoUs with the relevant provincial institutions and government universities which will facilitate AF in conducting future project activities.

The first MoU signed under this project was with the Department of Journalism & Mass Communication at the University of Peshawar. It was signed on 13th September 2022 in the presence of Ms. Shabina Ayaz, resident director AF Peshawar office and Dr. Faizullah Jan, Head of Department (HOD) Department of Journalism & Mass Communication.

The second and third MoUs under the project were both signed on 14th September 2022 by the Aurat Foundation Quetta office. One of the MoUs was signed with the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), Balochistan Office while the second one was signed with the Provincial Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), Balochistan.

The government departments were represented by Ms. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, Member NCHR and Ms. Fauzia Shaheen, Chairperson, Provincial Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) Balochistan. AF was

represented by Mr. Allauddin Khilji, resident director Quetta office.

Aurat Foundation Lahore office has also signed an MoU with the Gender Studies Department of the University of Punjab, Lahore on 21st September 2022. The MoU was signed in the presence of Prof. Dr. Raana Malik, Chairperson, Gender Studies Department of the University of Punjab and Ms. Sarah Sheraz, resident director AF Lahore.

The fifth and final MoU signed under this project was with the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women (SCSW), Karachi on 22nd September 2022. This MoU was signed by Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson, Sindh Commission on the Status of Women (SCSW), Karachi and Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, resident director AF Karachi.

Signing these MoUs with the above-mentioned organizations was a key project deliverable and it will ensure that the fifty (50) women peace architects (WPAs) will work in close collaboration with these institutions and conduct project activities including capacity-building trainings and other professional activities.

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