



Flood Relief Efforts

by the Legal Aid Society



1. Organizational Description, Capacity and Relevant Experience

The Legal Aid Society (LAS) is a not-for-profit organization which was registered on 19th November 2013, as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 which operates under the chairpersonship of Justice (retired) Nasir Aslam Zahid. LAS was issued with a No Objection Certificate from the Economic Affairs Division of the Government of Pakistan on 17th March, 2021 for working on its mission to connect vulnerable and



disempowered end users of justice with effective and expedient services for the delivery of justice. LAS's interventions have been aimed at increasing access to justice for poor and marginalized communities, particularly women, across the province of Sindh as well as at the Federal level. LAS has received funding from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (US State Department), U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office, DFID, European Union, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Government of Sindh, Open Society Foundation and the United Nations Population Fund. LAS operates through its head quarters in Karachi and branch office in Islamabad alongwith district offices in



LAS's key demand side interventions include:

Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center (SLACC):

The Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center (SLACC) provides free and immediate access to legal advisors for underprivileged and marginalized communities across Pakistan through a round-the-clock (24/7) toll-free helpline manned by highly qualified High Court Lawyers who address legal queries of all types. SLACC has responded to over more than 160,000 legal queries of varying natures from across Pakistan.

Community Engagement:

LAS equips communities across Sindh with legal literacy and consciousness and empowers them to pursue legal redress and remedies with autonomy and confidence. LAS has engaged over **29,561** community members on themes of basic fundamental rights, Alternate Dispute Resolution, gender-based issues, justiciable needs & rights of religious minorities, juvenile justice, and civic responsibilities.

Legal Aid and Representation:

LAS has extensively provided free of cost legal advice, advocacy, and representation to clients referred through state services and informal referral networks that include Dar-ul-Amans (State-run women's shelter homes), Child Protection Units, other NGOs, and CSOs, in addition to its Legal Aid Clinics/ direct community linkages. In the one year from 2020 till date alone, LAS has represented **561** vulnerable members of the community in courts in varying cases. Out of these cases, **128** have been successfully resolved.

LAS's key supply side interventions include:

Advocacy and Strengthening of ADR and Salis Committees:

In 2014, LAS launched a groundbreaking campaign for the activation of court-annexed mediation provided for under the Small Claims and Minor Offences Courts Ordinance 2002. After sustained advocacy efforts LAS successfully got 270 lawyers in 24 districts across Sindh, notified as Salis members (court appointed mediators), in turn constituting Salis Committees. Additionally, LAS has partnered with the Pakistan Mediators' Association (PMA) and the Sindh Judicial Academy to train 197 officially

notified Salis Committee members as accredited mediators.

Legislative Drafting and Policy Advocacy:

LAS has undertaken legislative drafting activities in key areas, developed comprehensive policy frameworks, and conducted a training needs assessment of multiple justice sector actors, including the Sindh Police. It drafted the Sindh Civil Procedure Code Amendment Bill, 2019 which was enacted in February 2019 that enlarged the scope of ADR in Sindh. Similarly, LAS staff are engaged on various government committees examining legislation, regulating prisons, violence against women and acid crimes, underage marriage, rights of religious minorities, and protecting children from child sexual abuse.

Capacity Building of Justice Sector Actors:

Judiciary: LAS has partnered with the Sindh Judicial Academy, Punjab Judicial Academy, and Federal Judicial Academy to train 363 judicial officers on substantive and procedural law relating to sexual and gender-based violence, religious minorities, and juveniles, etc. Police: LAS has carried out multiple Training Needs Assessments and developed a training toolkits to sensitize police officials on legal protections for women, human rights, communications and religious minorities and gender-sensitive policing, and has trained 498 police officials. More recently LAS has developed a competency framework for investigation officers who work on cases of SGBV for province of Sindh and is also developing guidelines for police in Islamabad and Sindh.

LAS has MOUs with the Sindh Judicial Academy and the Federal Judicial Academy and has provided trainings and technical assistance to the Judicial Academies along with Police Training Departments.

Links for further information:

Research: <https://www.las.org.pk/communication/research-papers-and-publications/>

Registration and NTN:

<https://www.las.org.pk/accountability/registration/>

<https://www.las.org.pk/accountability/ntn-certificates/>

2. Flood Relief Work:

Introduction and Overview

The monsoon in Pakistan has wreaked havoc in Balochistan and Sindh, causing floods, landslides, and severe weather-related incidents, resulting in an increasing scale of humanitarian impact including deaths, loss of homes and shelters, live stocks, livelihood etc. Pakistan has received 60% of total normal monsoon rainfall in just three weeks since the start of the monsoon season and it projected to increase with continued intense rainfall. 22 districts in Sindh have been declared calamity hit by PDMA. The social, cultural, political, economic and ecological context both before and after emergencies impacts the vulnerability of different groups. Factors such as gender, ethnicity, caste, poverty, minority group status, and age in a given society determine a person's entitlements and access to resources, information, services, voice, and political participation.

The interaction of these factors within society regulate how women, men, boys and girls are affected by, anticipate, face, and emerge from emergencies. Women are typically regarded as a "vulnerable group" in emergencies. Pre-existing inequalities, structural discrimination and the perceived lower status of women within society along social, economic, cultural and political lines increases women's vulnerability to emergencies. The impacts of previous disasters in Pakistan including the earthquake in 2005 and floods in 2013 demonstrated that not only did the emergency scenario itself have specific negative impacts on women and children, but the immediate, interim and long term rehabilitation measures were also insufficient to address their specific issues arising for women and children in a crisis situation.

During an emergency and its aftermath, access to lifesaving care and support is unpredictable, vulnerability to violence is higher, and systems that protect women and girls, including family, community and state structures, may weaken or break down.

LAS started an online appeal to generate funds to prioritize provision of life saving food supplies to women , children and the vulnerable. LAS developed a three pronged criteria on the basis of which it commenced its mapping exercise:

FLOOD

DONATION

APPEAL

LAS SLACC
LEGAL AID SOCIETY Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center
24/7 Helpline 0800 70808



PKR 5,900
is all it takes
to feed one family aggrieved
from the floodings



DRY RATION DRIVE
A/C Title: Legal Aid Society
A/C # 3031301900213690
Bank Name: Faysal Bank
IBAN: PK67FAYS3031301900213690

FLOOD

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THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT

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**HELP
NOW**

FLOOD

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**THOUSANDS OF
FAMILIES ARE**

**STILL SEEKING
YOUR SUPPORT!**

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**FLOOD
DONATION
APPEAL**

LAS SLACC
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24/7 Helpline 0800 70808



ڈوبتی زندگیوں کو ابھارنے میں لیگل ایڈ سوسائٹی کا ساتھ دیجئے

DRY RATION DRIVE

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**آپکے عطیات کسی کا
سہارا بن سکتے ہیں**

- Prioritizing women heads of households
- Ensuring affectees were displaced
- Ensuring affectees were not in receipt of aid , assistance form government or other ngos etc.

Further, our teams are in touch with community focal persons and were ready to deploy relief measures in partnership with CSOs operating on the ground and the local administration and government departments.

The following strategy was adopted by LAS :

- LAS field & program teams to conduct scoping through primary and secondary sources to identify vulnerable areas.
- Program Managers to lead scoping and ask field teams to talk to a) Community leaders b) Local Administration for most affected areas and communities + orgs providing relief
- Program teams to conduct scoping of provincial relief efforts and connect to orgs

The teams scoped for the following :

- Worst affected communities in the 8 districts we operate in (creating a list of families in need of ration and cash for shelter)
- District wise govt + CSOs working on relief and aid (where and what kind and focal persons?)
- How to effectively create a field referral mechanism where those needing urgent relief, rescue, health, food can be connected to relevant orgs / local admin



Ration for 1 month

■ LAS commenced provision of Ration to those that have lost shelter, have large families with children / elderly and do have funds/access to basic ration

■ The cost of one ration bag for a family of

6-7 = **PKR 5,500** (aata, rice, oil, chai, meds, water, daal, masalas, dry milk)
persons



■ Target beneficiaries

6,000
families



■ Total

■ Distribution – through field teams, Rizq, district admin, Pak Rangers

The LAS team ensure that the distribution arrangements (time, place, schedule, size and weight, etc.) do not discriminate against vulnerable or marginalized groups and adopt positive measures to redress the discrimination in allocation of food resources (e.g. ensure that children under 5, the sick or malnourished, pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable groups are given priority for feeding).

Checklist to assess gender equality programming in food distribution

The checklist below is derived from the action section in this chapter and provides a useful tool to remind sector actors of key issues to ensure gender equality programming. In addition, the checklist, together with the sample indicators in the Basics Chapter, serves as a basis for project staff to develop context-specific indicators to measure progress in the incorporation of gender issues into humanitarian action.



Food Distribution Gender Checklist



Analysis of gender differences

1. Participatory assessments with women, girls, boys and men gather information on:

- Roles of women, girls, boys and men in food procurement;
- cultural and religious food restrictions/preferences for women and men;
- differences in women's and men's control over and access to food resources;
- cultural, practical and security-related obstacles women, girls, boys and men could be expected to face in accessing services.

2. Reasons for inequalities between women, girls, boys and men are analysed and addressed through programming.

3. The gender analysis is reflected in planning documents and situation reports.

Design of services

1. Services are designed to reduce women's and children's time spent getting to, at and returning from food distribution points (e.g. distribution organized at different time intervals to avoid crowds and long waiting time; to ensure timely distribution and to avoid long waits for food delivery by partners).

2. Services are designed to reduce the burden that the receipt of food aid may pose on women beneficiaries:

- food distribution points established as close to beneficiaries as possible;
- weight of food packages manageable and efficient for women (e.g. 25kg vs. 50kg bags, etc.).

Access

1. Women's, girls', boys' and men's access to services is routinely monitored through spot checks, discussions with communities, etc.

2. Obstacles to equal access are promptly addressed.

Participation

1. Women and men take part equally (in numbers and consistency) in decision-making, planning, implementation and management of food aid programmes. 2. Committees with equal representation of women and men are formed for targeting, monitoring and distributing of food items and for determining the needs of vulnerable/marginalized groups.

Training/Capacity building

1. An equal number of women and men , in so far as is possible , are employed in food distribution programmes and have equal access to trainings.

Actions to address GBV

1. Both women and men are included in the process of selecting a safe distribution point.
2. Food distribution is done by a sex-balanced team.
3. "Safe spaces" are created at the distribution points and "safe passage" schedules created for women and children heads of households.
4. Distribution is conducted early in the day to allow beneficiaries to reach home during daylight.
5. Security and instances of abuse are monitored

Targeted actions based on gender analysis

1. Women are designated as the initial point of contact for emergency food distribution.
2. Women are the food entitlement holders.
3. Positive measures are adopted to redress the discrimination in allocation of food resources (e.g. ensure that children under5, the sick or malnourished, pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable groups are given priority for feeding).



Figures of distributions so far:

Cumulative Status of Flood Relief Work 24 August -25 September 2022			
District	Total Mapping	Ration Delivered	Ration to be Delivered
SBA	1013	600	413
NF	762	435	327
DAD	847	550	297
LRK	582	433	149
QM-SK	545	217	328
KHP	1067	508	559
SUK	654	478	176
SAN	1348	766	582
HYD	129	112	17
MTR	17	0	17
Total	6947	4099	2848

Gender Wise Ration Distributed Status				
District	Male	Female	Transgender	Total
SBA	205		1	600
NF	37	394	0	435
DAD	38	398	0	550
LRK	16	512	8	433
QM-SK	16	409	0	217
KHP	196	201	0	508
SUK	151	312	0	478
SAN	117	327	0	762
HYD	23	645	0	112
MTR	0	89	0	0
Total	799	3287	9	4095

Links to endorsements and flood relief work are provided as follows:

#	Video	Link
1	Endorsement by beneficiary	https://www.facebook.com/LegalAidSocietyPakistan/videos/388317483506343
2	Appeal by the CEO	https://www.facebook.com/LegalAidSocietyPakistan/videos/394292032844866
3	Advocacy in International forums	https://www.facebook.com/LegalAidSocietyPakistan/videos/1073531779963847

LAS

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