

# JUSTICE SUCCESS <sup>^</sup> STORY

## Empowering Farmers through Government's Social Security Schemes

The Legal Aid Society joined forces with the International Organization for Migration (UN IOM) in February 2023 for Safeguarding and Enhancing Access to Civil Documentation for Flood-Affected Population in Sindh. The interventions resulting from this partnership were implemented in the flood-affected districts of Dadu, Sanghar, Shaheed Benazirabad, Khairpur, and Umerkot. This collaboration aimed to address the urgent needs of the local population regarding civil documentation and legal support by providing vital assistance to the communities severely affected by the devastating floods of 2022.

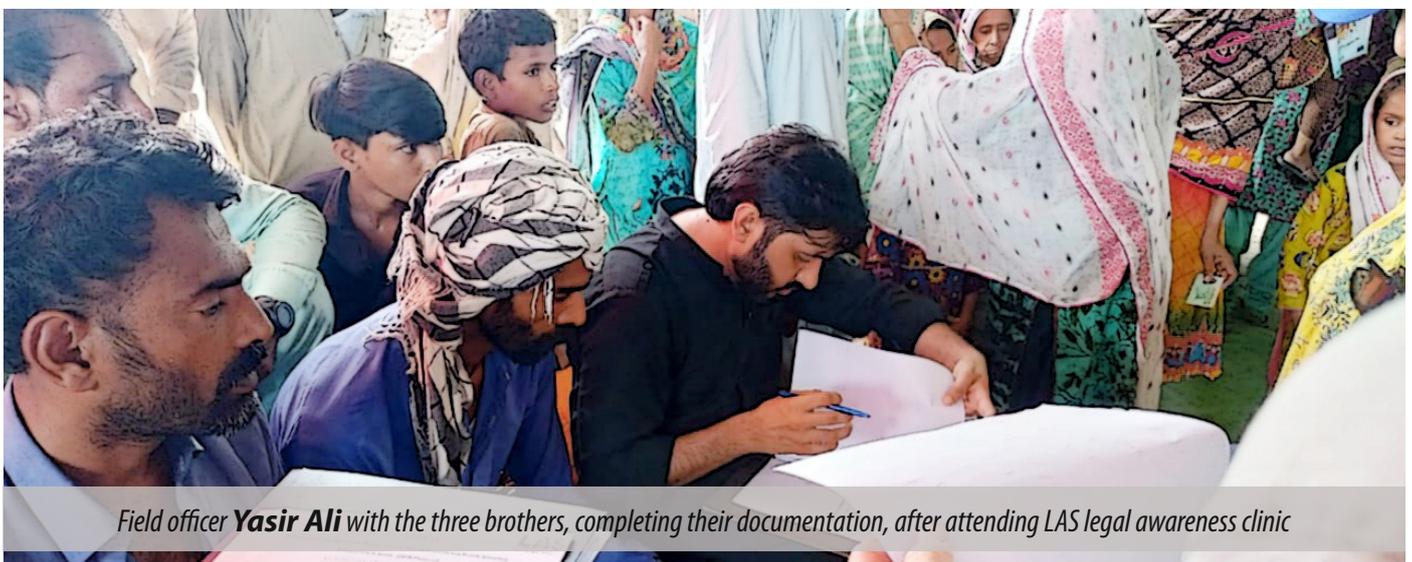
**A**bdul Wahab, Waleed, and Ishaque Ali work as farmers in the sugarcane fields of village Tando Mureed Hyder, district Khairpur. The three of them attended a community awareness session in their village organized by LAS that centered around the recovery and protection of civil documents.

Following what was learned from the session, the three put forth their grievances with **Yasir Ali** (Field Officer, LAS), who filed out a client intake form to document their case and sat with them to hear about their experiences. Narrating the horrors of the unprecedented floods of 2022, and the havoc that was wreaked, they stated how the disaster only exacerbated their existing problems and marginalized them even further.

They shared that the standard CNIC renewal cost was too high for them to pay. Dealing with the aftermath of the floods made renewing their CNICs the least of their priorities, eventually discouraging them from applying for a renewal. Their financial problems only doubled when their wives were suddenly taken off the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) - an initiative by the Government of Pakistan, which aims to empower economically disadvantaged women via cash transfers to alleviate the alarmingly high poverty rates. Abdul Wahab's, Waleed's, and Ishaque Ali's wives were eligible to receive a quarterly BISP installment of PKR 8,500 each. However, their BISP cards were blocked because they no longer met the eligibility criteria.

Taking immediate measures, Yasir Ali not only took up their cases to renew their expired CNICs but also helped their wives re-register for BISP through their ongoing dynamic survey across Sindh. All costs incurred for processing the expired CNIC were covered by LAS, setting the beneficiaries free of any financial burden. As a result of timely interventions, the women of the house also started receiving their BISP payments again, which enabled them to send their children back to school.

**All three beneficiaries are grateful to LAS for protecting their civil documents and restoring their legal identity and citizenship status.**



Field officer **Yasir Ali** with the three brothers, completing their documentation, after attending LAS legal awareness clinic