

JUSTICE SUCCESS STORY

Empowering Flood Survivors: Suman's Story of Hope and Renewal

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.

Suman*, a 35-year-old disabled Hindu woman from the village Muhammad Uras Shah of district Umerkot was one of the survivors of the 2022 floods. Owing to her disability, she could not actively work in the fields alongside her brother, but she did not let that hinder her financial contribution to the household. She was skilled in making handicrafts and other cultural artifacts, including embroidery and ralli-making, and used to sell those to the women of other villages to contribute her share of the expenses. However, when the floods hit, she lost most of her crafting materials and tools, resulting in an immediate halt to her income. She was also unable to register for any social protection or microfinancing schemes

because her CNIC had expired, rendering her ineligible.

Suman shared her grievances with our Field Officer, **Muhammad Khan** after she attended the legal awareness session on the importance of her civil documents. Her CNIC had long expired, and she was unaware of the renewal process. Suman was provided with guidance on the renewal process on the spot but also requested further assistance with her case. She was then accompanied by our Field Officer to the NADRA office where her financial expenses to cover the processing fee for a CNIC renewal were paid for by the Legal Aid Society.

Suman also sought guidance from Muhammad Khan regarding social protection schemes she could be eligible for now that she has a valid CNIC, and after getting the answers to all her queries she was very optimistic about the possibility of restarting her small business venture.

She thanked the Legal Aid Society for helping her with not only her CNIC but also providing her with step-by-step guidance on how she can register for social protection schemes which would support her business and help her get back on her feet.



Field officer **Muhammad Khan** administering LAS legal awareness clinic in Umarkot