

District Lodhran, Punjab
June, 2017



The Patrons of **CHAON**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Save the Children



IKEA Foundation



CHAON چھاؤں

Children's Action against Oppression and Neglect

A Project of Save the Children

Table of Contents



2

Sheeba Albert,
Community Learning
Worker (CLW)
District Lodhran,
Punjab



4

**Abdul Rehman
Khan Kanju,**
Member National
Assembly



6

Sumaira Amin,
ALC Teacher villager
Klasnwa, District
Lodhran, Punjab



8

Rao Abdullah,
Head Teacher,
Government Primary
School Kot Laal Shah
District Lodhran



10

**Muhammad Laiqat
Ali, 15 years,**
Union Council Rappar,
District Lodhran



12

Zahara Batool,
Deputy District
Education Officer,
District Lodhran,



14

Shabana Saddique,
ALC student, Union
Council Noor Shah
Gillani, District
Lodhran, Punjab



16

**Raja Khurram
Shahzad Umar,**
Deputy
Commissioner
District Lodhran



18

**Rana Muhammad
Sajjad,**
Chairman Union
Council Rajapur,
District Lodhran



20

Dr. Sadia
Women Medical
Officer
District Lodhran



22

**Malik Muhammad
Afzal,**
Deputy Director
Social Welfare,
District Lodhran



24

Dr. Waseem Ahmad,
District Health
Officer,
District Lodhran



26

Asmat Bibi,
Member, Quality
Improvement Team
BHU Rajapur,
District Lodhran



28

Chaudhry Amin,
Assistant Labor Officer
/in Charge CPU desk
District Lodhran



30

Kubra Bibi,
Lady Health Worker
(LHW),
District Lodhran



32

Mian Abdul Razak,
District Education
Officer, District
Lodhran, Punjab



34

Chaudhry Amin,
Assistant Labor
Officer/in Charge
CPU desk
District Lodhran

Introduction:

Save the Children implemented a child rights program, titled as CHAON- Children's Action Against Oppression and Neglect in 200 villages of Muzaffargarh (Punjab) and 150 villages of Sanghar (Sindh) from 2009 to 2014. This Program was implemented in partnership with the IKEA Foundation. The lives of 199,000 children were improved by implementing an integrated program on Child Protection, Health, Education and Economic Empowerment.

Keeping in view the success and the impact of phase one, a second phase (2014-2018) of the program has started in 200 villages of Lodhran (Punjab) and 150 villages of Shaheed Benazirabad (Sindh) targeting 153,000 children in 350 communities of both districts.

Program Goals

1

153,000 girls and boys in 350 communities of two cotton-growing districts of Pakistan exercise their rights to survival, development, protection and participation.

2

To demonstrate a model of a holistic child protection system suitable to the rural context in Sindh and Punjab.



**LITERACY BOOST PLAYS PIVOTAL ROLE
IN IMPROVING CHILDREN'S READING SKILLS**



“I have completed higher secondary education and I'm pursuing my undergraduate through a distance learning education system as studying in a university was not possible for me for various reasons. I recently joined as a Community Learning Worker (CLW) under the CHAON program. I feel a huge difference between the learning capabilities of these students and my era of learning. The main difference lies in teaching methodologies and activity based learning. I received training on Literacy Boost and other interactive sessions with children and I feel that children are gaining more interest in my evening sessions just because they learn while playing. Apart from reading skills, the children's manners and cleanliness have also improved significantly. I wish the CHAON program had existed when I was in primary school.”



Sheeba Albert,
Community Learning Worker (CLW)
District Lodhran, Punjab



**I AM VERY SATISFIED WITH THE INITIATIVES TO
ENSURE CHILD RIGHTS UNDER THE CHAON PROGRAM
IN MY CONSTITUENCY**



“ I personally believe that the role of the NGOs is very important in awareness raising and capacity building of government institutions, especially in under developed countries such as ours. The government of Punjab is very vigilant of child protection legislation and action against child rights violations and I am very satisfied with the initiatives taken to ensure child rights under the CHAON program in my constituency. I must say how much I appreciate the evening classes' concept for out-of-school children at the Accelerated Learning Centers (ALCs) and the establishment of a Child Protection Unit (CPU) in district Lodhran. Child labor is also a major issue and I think it's due to lack of awareness; however, the CHAON program is creating awareness on this issue. I will play my role in the parliament for the sustainability of Accelerated Learning Centers and extend my full support to

the CHAON program”



Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju,
Member National Assembly (PML-N)
District Lodhran, Punjab



**WITH CONTINUED EFFORTS,
38 OUT-OF-SCHOOL
CHILDREN WERE ENROLLED IN ALCs**



Save the Children

“ I come from Lodhran city but came here after getting married as my husband lives here in the village Klasnwala. The situation in terms of health, sanitation and especially education, was very bad in the village. The main reason for having a lot of out-of-school children is lack of awareness and poverty. I wanted to do something for the children here but as a woman I was unable to as society is very conservative. Fortunately, an Accelerated Education Center (ALC) started in my village under the CHAON program and I was selected as an ALC teacher. After attending trainings I have now started teaching here. I regarded this as more than just a job and with continued efforts, 38 out-of-school children are now enrolled in the center. I must say that all children are very talented and motivated.”



Sumaira Amin,
ALC Teacher villager Klasnwala,
District Lodhran, Punjab



ILC
Improving the Lives of Children

سکول کی بہتری کا منصوبہ

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SMC

**FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE SET OUR PRIORITIES
BASED ON THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
PLAN AND SPEND GRANTS ACCORDINGLY**



“We had been getting School Improvement Grants on a quarterly basis over the past two years. Although the community was involved, we were spending money without setting any priorities. This is the first time a comprehensive process was adopted with assistance from the CHAON program and a School Improvement Plan (SIP) was developed with the consultation of all stakeholders, including children. We were surprised to see that children identified many relevant things which we hadn't even considered. We developed SIP and displayed it on a wall. We set priorities and started the implementation very transparently. So far, we have purchased white boards for all class rooms which have improved the teaching and learning capacity. We've provided school uniforms to children in need, especially orphans and children from very poor families. The children also

demanded a canteen inside the school and we all accepted this. After implementing the SIP for this year, we will develop another plan for next year and utilize all school grants according to the priorities stated in the School Improvement Plan.”



Rao Abdullah,
Head Teacher,
Government Primary School Kot Laal Shah
District Lodhran, Punjab



فرد کو یہ حق ہے کہ اگر مندرجہ بالا شقوں
نمبر پر رابطہ کریں



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**THE CHILD CLUB AND LIFE SKILLS BASED
EDUCATION TURNED MY LIFE AROUND**



“ I left school in class 8 in 2015 and became addicted to drugs. I was getting money for drugs through robbery and by bullying and beating children in my village for money. I also spent a few months in Karachi and got punished badly by people after being caught red-handed in a criminal activity. I remained involved in such activities and wasted three years of my life. A few months back, in July 2016, I joined the Child Club in my village which was formed by the CHAON program project team. I received a Life Skills Based Education training as a member of the Child Club. Due to these sessions in the club, I realized that I was on a wrong path and was wasting my life. I stopped using drugs completely, was cured of my addiction and left all types of negative activities. I now feel that my perception in my community has improved and other

parents do not restrict their children from playing with me any longer. I am waiting for admissions to open in schools so that I can be admitted in class 9 to continue my education. Now, I am the captain of my child club and we regularly conduct meetings in order to highlight children's issues and help in improving their protection in our district.”



Muhammad Laiqat Ali, 15 years,
Member Child Club,
District Lodhran, Punjab



**THE ALCs ARE A VERY VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION
FROM THE CHAON PROGRAM IN LODHRAN**



“It's a fact that providing all children with access to basic education is the prime responsibility of the government; however, I think that the government can't reach every child without collective efforts. Bringing out-of-school children, where many are also in cotton labor, into Accelerated Education Centers (ALCs) is a very valuable contribution from the CHAON program in Lodhran. The CHAON program supported the district education department, focusing especially on girls' education through motivation, trainings, social mobilization, effective monitoring and involvement of the community, above all parents. We as education managers in the district, also expect a monitoring role from the CHAON program team to learn together and improve the quality of education in the district.”



Zahara Batool,
Deputy District Education Officer,
District Lodhran, Punjab



**I COULD NEVER IMAGINE MYSELF STUDYING UNTIL
THE ACCELERATED LEARNING CENTER (ALC)
OPENED IN MY VILLAGE**



Save the Children

“There was no education facility in my village. Girls had to travel around 5 KM which is why most of them could not attend school. I also wanted to go to school but couldn't as my father told me that we are poor and can't afford my education. I supported my parents at home. I could never imagine studying until a few months ago, but luckily, an Accelerated Learning Center (ALC) opened in my village. Some people visited my parents and convinced them to enroll me. Finally, I got enrolled and started going to school. Not only was I attending school, I was provided with books and materials. My mother is very happy and she helps me get ready every day for the ALC. She asks me when I will be promoted to the next class. I am also teaching “ABC” to my mother and helping her learn.”



Shabana Saddique,
ALC student,
Union Council Noor Shah Gillani,
District Lodhran, Punjab



**THE CHAON PROGRAM PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT
ROLE IN AWARENESS RISING**



Save the Children

“In district Lodhran, high number of out-of-school children, child labor and lack of awareness among local community regarding health and hygiene are main issues. These issues are also a priority for us and CHAON program is contributing directly in to district government's plan to tackle these. CHAON program interventions like evening classes for out-of-school and working children is not only unique but also very effective. Similarly capacity building of education and health staff has strengthened the relevant departments. As a result of CHAON program's effective campaign at district level enrollment in government schools has increased significantly. I am very hopeful district government departments will ensure to address the child protection issues with the technical support of non-profit sector.”



Raja Khurram Shahzad Umar,
Deputy Commissioner
District Lodhran



THE CHAON PROGRAM ADDRESSED THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN ISSUE VERY WELL IN SELECTED UNION COUNCILS. THIS MODEL NEEDS TO BE REPLICATED IN ALL UNION COUNCILS IN LODHRAN



Save the Children

“We are facing many issues in my constituency, even in district Lodhran. These are mainly related to out-of-school children, sports facilities for children, health issues such as immunization and most importantly, child labor. So far, the CHAON program has addressed the issue of out-of-school children in selected union councils but there's still a lot to be done. I think this model should be replicated in all union councils in Lodhran. Community involvement in health facilities is also very fruitful and the provincial government has formed committees for the improvement of health facilities. The Quality Improvement Teams (QITs) are performing better because of capacity building of these committees under the CHAON program. We, as local elected representatives, also appreciate the role of the CHAON program in awareness raising.”



Rana Muhammad Sajjad,
Chairman Union Council Rajapur,
District Lodhran, Punjab



**THE FORMATION OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM
HELPS US TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN
HEALTHCARE STAFF AND LOCAL COMMUNITY**



“As a medical officer, I support this model because the local community always used to ask for services and facilities in the BHU. They always criticized the services in the health facility but never understood the issues we are faced with here. I think the formation of the QIT, by involving healthcare staff and community members, is a good initiative to bridge the gap between healthcare staff and the community. Now I find the involvement of the community very helpful for us in terms of information sharing, awareness raising, improving the overall environment of the facility and improving the general perception of health staff among the local community. Now they understand our problems in terms of service delivery and facility management, and assist us in solving these problems. Our record shows that OPD, deliveries through a Skilled Birth Attendant, communication among staff

and the community, restoration of the community trust over government institutions and overall environment has improved after the formation of the QIT.”



Dr. Sadia
Women Medical Officer
District Lodhran, Punjab



**THE CHAON PROGRAM HELPS US CONDUCT AWARENESS
RAISING CAMPAIGNS AT COMMUNITY LEVEL WHICH
NOW HELPS US ADDRESS CHILD PROTECTION
ISSUES IN DISTRICT LODHRAN**



“The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is responsible for children's welfare in the district but lacks resources and a proper mechanism to address child protection issues. Establishing and equipping the Child Protection Unit (CPU) and building the capacity of staff involved in the CHAON program is a milestone for addressing child protection issues using a system approach. We were addressing child protection cases earlier too but we didn't have enough technical and financial resources and lacked proper mechanisms to facilitate children, particularly the ones in labor, and provide them with opportunities to continue their education. However, in the CHAON program, we have multiple interventions, including Accelerated Learning Centers (ALCs), Child Protection Units (CPUs) and Desks, and we conduct community level awareness

raising campaigns which are now helping us to address child protection issues in district Lodhran.”



Malik Muhammad Afzal,
Deputy Director Social Welfare,
District Lodhran, Punjab



**WE ARE GETTING GOOD SUPPORT FROM THE
CHAON PROGRAM IN TERMS OF CAPACITY BUILDING OF
HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND AWARENESS RAISING**



“We are getting good support from the CHAON program in terms of capacity building of health care providers, awareness raising and community involvement in health facilities' management and quality improvement. The Punjab government has also established health councils for the health facilities but the Quality Improvement Team (QIT) model is more effective and successful. The interest from the local community in health facilities management and improvement is very positive and this interest shows that people actually want good services and a quality environment. Community involvement also ensures long-term benefits. Although the CHAON program is providing services on a very small scale, its success can be replicated in the rest of the health facilities.”



Dr. Waseem Ahmad,
District Health Officer,
District Lodhran, Punjab



**DUE TO THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM, THE AVERAGE OPD
INCREASED WITH UP TO 30% IN OUR BHU**



Save the Children

“Most of the people in my village earn a living through farming and are not well-established financially. The overall quality of health facilities in our Basic Health Unit (BHU) Rajapur is also not up to the mark. Mostly, people visit the city hospital for treatment, especially for deliveries, which costs extra. A few months back, a Quality Improvement Team (QIT) was formed under the CHAON program and I am also a member of the committee and this is first time any female part of the decision making committee. We received trainings on our roles and responsibilities and conduct monthly meetings. As a female community member, I must say the most important achievement of the QIT is providing a 24/7 delivery facility in the BHU. The QIT changed the environment of the BHU by improving the general cleanliness and plantations. The QIT's efforts also resulted in providing Blood

Pressure apparatus as well as the restoration of electricity and damaged fans in the BHU. Due to our initial interventions, the average OPD increased up to 30%. The immunization ratio has also increased due to our awareness raising campaign.”



Asmat Bibi,
Member, Quality Improvement Team (QIT)
BHU Rajapur, District Lodhran, Punjab



**CRAN REDUCED BIRTH REGISTRATION
FEE WITH EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY**



“The Child Rights Advocacy Network (CRAN) was established in August, 2016, and now consists of 28 local organizations as members of CRAN in District Lodhran. This is the first ever district-level platform where all local organizations can make collective efforts for the realization children's rights. Since the establishment of CRAN we have taken several initiatives. For example, in Punjab only 72.7% births are registered and in Lodhran only 52.7%. CRAN believes that birth registration is one of the most basic rights of every child. NADRA had imposed a fee of PKR 500 for birth registration but after our efforts and advocacy work, it has now been reduced to PKR 50 per child. This has resulted in an increased birth registration rate in the district. We are also raising awareness on birth registration. We are currently focusing on an amendment in the child labor law

which at the moment only addresses child labor in brick factories, whereas we believe that no child should be involved in labor and that the law must address all kinds of child labor. CRAN is also linking poor families in the district with government institutions/safety nets like Benazir Income Support Program, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal etc. to improve the families' economic conditions. This will help in improving children's access to basic services including education and health.”

Chaudhry Amin,
Assistant Labor Officer/in Charge CPU desk
District Lodhran, Punjab



THE RATIO OF DELIVERIES WITH SKILLED BIRTH ATTENDANTS HAS INCREASED FROM AN AVERAGE OF 8 PER MONTH TO 25 PER MONTH IN MY VILLAGE

“I am working as a Lady Health Worker (LHW) in my village since 2005. Registration of pregnant women, regular antenatal checkups and proper immunizations are major issues in my working area. The main reason for these problems is lack of awareness among people in the local community. CHAON program trained me on Support Group Methodology and told me how to form a Support Group. During the last few months, a support group was formed under the CHAON program and regular meetings along with health sessions were held to increase awareness within the local community. I am visiting 10 houses per day along with arranging and conducting support group meetings with women in my area. The major change which I see is improvement in birth registration, an increased antenatal and postnatal care ratio and proper immunization of newborns. Recently,

only one household refused polio vaccination compared to the previous 33%. The ratio of deliveries with a Skilled Birth Attendant (SBA) has also increased from an average of 8 per month to 25 per month.”



Kubra Bibi,
Lady Health Worker (LHW),
District Lodhran, Punjab



**ESTABLISHING ALCs REALLY HELPED THE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BRING
OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL**



Save the Children


“ I am very pleased to share that in the provincial ranking of “Literacy & Numeracy drive” (L&D), district Lodhran secured first position during this quarter with an 86% score and I have no doubt that the CHAON program project contributed to this achievement, especially in improving the literacy skills among children. Establishing Accelerated Learning Centers (ALCs) really helped the education department to bring out-of-school children back to school. I am confident that these children will continue their education even after 5th grade in government schools. The CHAON program also supports the education department in capacity building of teachers and School-Management-Councils (SMCs). I appreciate the CHAON program's support in developing the School Improvement Plan (SIP) through a consultative process based on the needs of the school. Awareness raising among

parents is another positive aspect of this project. An increase in enrollment of children in government schools is also a good outcome of the CHAON program.”



¹[Literacy and Numeracy Drive](#) for school education is a step taken by the government of Punjab in collaboration with the Punjab IT Board to evaluate how schools are performing.

Mian Abdul Razak,
District Education Officer,
District Lodhran, Punjab

A man with dark hair and a mustache is seated at a desk, looking towards the camera. He is wearing a red, ribbed turtleneck sweater. On the desk in front of him are various papers and a white telephone. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM
UNDER THE CHAON PROGRAM IS THE FIRST FORMAL MECHANISM
WHICH INCLUDES A PROPER REFERRAL MECHANISM TO ADDRESS
CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES IN LODHRAN**



Save the Children

“The District Labor Department is working against child labor in Lodhran district. We have imposed a fine on 113 people who were involved in engaging children in labor during the last couple of years. The government has also established 12 work place centers for children but they are not enough due to the large number of children involved in labor in the district. The Labor department is facing a shortage of human resources here as we have only one field staff member in the whole district. The establishment of a Child Protection System under CHAON program is the first formal mechanism with a proper referral mechanism to address child protection issues, including child labor. A very useful and effective strategy of the child protection system is to establish and strengthen Child Protection Desks in different

departments, including the Labor department. That has helped improved the coordination between various governments' departments and has developed a systematic mechanism to resolve child protection issues efficiently.”



Chaudhry Amin,
Assistant Labor Officer/in Charge CPU desk
District Lodhran, Punjab

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