SHEHER SAAZ
THE TRUST OF CITIES & CITIZENS

Jan-Mar 2026

Newsletter

PUCCAR STATISTICS

3,718
Rainwater Harvesting Units installed

4,463,650
Liter Water stored

53,200
Beneficiaries

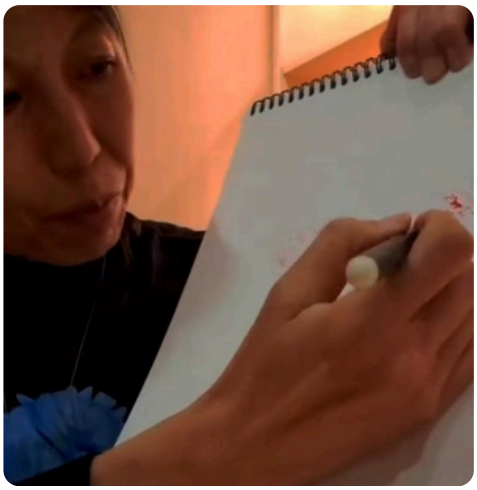
VIRTUAL ECO-PAINTING WORKSHOP

Under the Green Entrepreneurial Education Project, Ms. Shirley Yeung from Hong Kong conducted a virtual eco-painting workshop using environmentally friendly materials. Organized and facilitated by Shehersaaz, the session encouraged participants to express creativity while learning about sustainable practices.

> ***CREATIVITY BECOMES MORE POWERFUL WHEN IT INSPIRES SUSTAINABLE THINKING AND RESPONSIBLE ACTION.***

The workshop integrated artistic exploration with environmental awareness, demonstrating how creative engagement can influence responsible behavior.

Participants were guided through eco- friendly techniques, using materials such as rubber plant stems to create flowers and horses, while reflecting on the environmental impact of everyday resources. The session enabled participants to translate sustainability into creative practice within their own contexts.



SAFETY AND EMERGENCY KIT DISTRIBUTION – PROGRESSIVE SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI

SAFE SCHOOLS ARE BUILT WHEN PREPAREDNESS, TRAINING, AND TIMELY RESPONSE GO HAND IN HAND.THINKING AND RESPONSIBLE ACTION.

From 4th to 13th February 2026, under PUCCAR, Shehersaaz supported 26 PROGRESSIVE Schools across seven Union Councils in Rawalpindi by distributing comprehensive safety and emergency response kits. Professional paramedic-led training sessions were conducted for 224 participants, focusing on first aid, emergency procedures, and practical preparedness.

The initiative strengthened school-level capacities to respond effectively during emergencies while promoting a culture of safety among students and staff. With both training and equipment in place, school communities are now better prepared to respond immediately in critical situations.

SHEHERSAAZ COMMUNITY CLIMATE RESILIENCE ADAPTATION COMMITTEES (CCRAC) INITIATIVE

From 16th to 18th February 2026, Shehersaaz launched the Community Climate Resilience Adaptation Committees (CCRAC) initiative to strengthen local adaptation systems and resilience mechanisms.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE GROWS STRONGER WHEN COMMUNITIES ORGANIZE, PARTICIPATE, AND LEAD LOCAL ACTION.

The program fostered community-driven involvement, allowing stakeholders to grasp climate challenges, recognize vulnerabilities, and plan collaborative interventions.

Through interactive sessions, participants explored risk assessment, sustainable practices, and resource management while contributing local knowledge. The initiative positions communities to take informed, coordinated action in addressing climate risks at the neighborhood level.

RAINWATER HARVESTING UNIT INSTALLATION – NOWSHERA

Shehersaaz installed rainwater harvesting units in 25 government schools in Nowshera to promote climate resilience and sustainable water practices. The systems are designed to capture and store rainwater for institutional use, reducing dependency on municipal supply while demonstrating efficient resource management.

Alongside installation, awareness sessions guided students and staff on system use and maintenance. These systems now allow students and staff to turn water conservation into a hands-on, everyday practice.

SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT BEGINS WITH PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS THAT STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE.

RAINWATER HARVESTING UNIT INSTALLATION – GOVERNMENT GIRLS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, DHERI HASSANABAD

A rainwater harvesting system was installed at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Dheri Hassanabad, to improve water management and promote sustainable practices. The system captures and stores rainwater for daily use, reducing reliance on external water sources while reinforcing conservation practices within the school.

EVERY STEP TOWARD WATER CONSERVATION BUILDS A STRONGER AND MORE CLIMATE-RESILIENT FUTURE.

School staff were guided on the operation and basic maintenance of the system to ensure its effective use. This enables the school community to practice water conservation as part of their routines.

SAFETY AND FIRST AID RESPONSE TRAINING IN COLLABORATION WITH RESCUE 1122

In collaboration with Rescue 1122, Shehersaaz conducted safety and first aid response training to strengthen emergency preparedness among communities. Participants received hands-on guidance in basic first aid, life-saving procedures, and practical emergency response strategies.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SAVES LIVES WHEN COMMUNITIES ARE EQUIPPED WITH THE RIGHT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS.

The sessions were designed to enhance community confidence and competence in addressing accidents, health emergencies, and disaster scenarios. By combining practical skills training with awareness of risk prevention, the initiative supports both individual and collective resilience.

Participants are now better equipped to provide immediate assistance and stabilize situations before professional responders arrive.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS MEDIA AND DIGITAL CONTENT TRAINING

STRONGER COMMUNITIES EMERGE WHEN LOCAL VOICES ARE EQUIPPED TO INFORM, INSPIRE, AND ADVOCATE.

By building confidence in digital tools and advocacy strategies, this initiative empowers participants to actively shape local narratives and create meaningful change within their own communities.

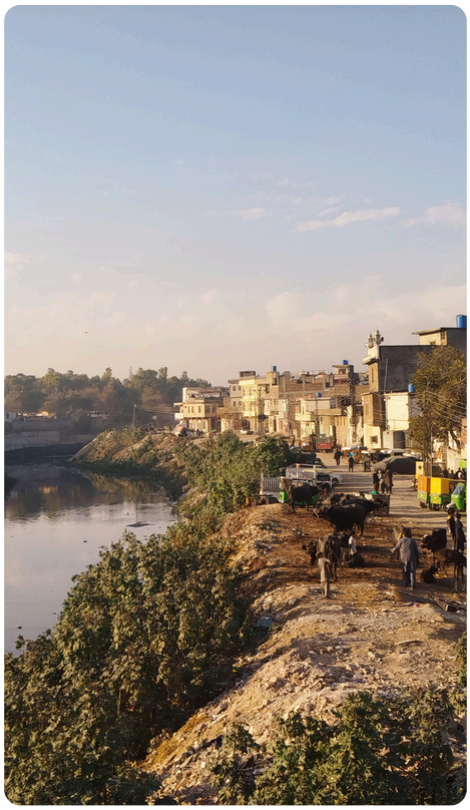
Shehersaaz organized a three-day training program for Community Champions focused on media literacy, digital storytelling, and community advocacy. The program equipped participants with practical skills to communicate effectively, amplify local voices, and use digital platforms to highlight issues that matter in their communities. Through hands-on exercises in content creation, storytelling techniques, and ethical media practices, participants learned how to inform, inspire, and mobilize their neighbors on social and environmental challenges.

RESEARCH, MAPPING, AND ANALYSIS OF OPEN SPACES IN THE PERIPHERY OF NULLAH LAI

Shehersaaz's Open Spaces project in Rawalpindi is transforming underutilized grey areas into vibrant, functional green pockets for communities. Over three months, 103 sites including dead spaces, landfills, and open plots were mapped, analyzed, and categorized into parks, schools, embankments, open spaces, parking areas, graveyards, and disputed or public lands. Discussions with stakeholders such as PHA, the Railway Authority, and Upscale Green Pakistan are ongoing to bring these plans to life.

The first phase focuses on parks with three already completed and others in the design and estimation stage.

RECLAIMING GREY SPACES INTO GREEN OASES CREATES LIVABLE COMMUNITIES AND INSPIRES SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSFORMATION.

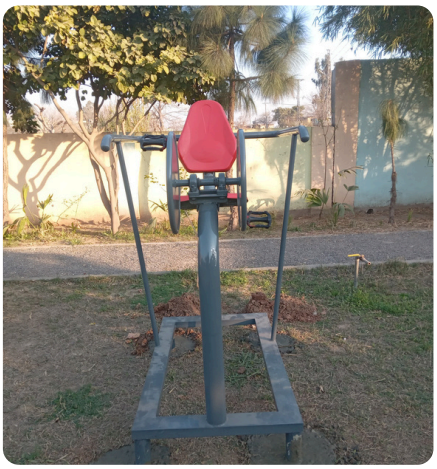


These interventions will turn previously neglected areas into inviting spaces where residents can gather, relax, and connect while improving the overall urban environment and sense of community ownership.

RECLAIMING COMMUNITY SPACES LADIES AND CHILDRENS PARK, DHOKE MANGTAL

THRIVING COMMUNITY SPACES EMERGE WHEN DESIGN, ECOLOGICAL THINKING, AND INCLUSIVE PLANNING COME TOGETHER

Shehersaaz is transforming neighborhood parks into safe, inclusive, and sustainable community spaces. Ladies Park has been completed as a 5-kanal recreational area for women and children, featuring pathways, a jogging track, shaded seating, and diverse planting that enhances green cover and urban biodiversity.



In Dhoke Mangtal, three parks have been designed for regeneration with fenced animal zones, community kitchen gardens, recreational areas, and sustainable infrastructure such as permeable surfaces and biogas-powered lighting. These projects strengthen environmental resilience, encourage active community participation, and provide accessible spaces for recreation, learning, and social interaction. By turning previously underutilized areas into structured and usable spaces, these efforts foster everyday community engagement and a stronger connection to the local environment.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES – SHEHERSAAZ PARTNERS WITH RESCUE 1122 FOR SAFETY AND RESILIENCE

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE GROW STRONGER WHEN PARTNERSHIPS COMBINE TRAINING, INCLUSION, AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION.

On 4th March 2026, Shehersaaz formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Rescue 1122 Rawalpindi, formalizing a collaboration ongoing since early 2023. The partnership strengthens community and school preparedness through first aid and emergency response trainings, development of emergency kits, and technical guidance for safety initiatives.

Together, the organizations will expand programs including plantation drives, environmental regeneration, wall murals, and placement of emergency response equipment. Dedicated interventions for transgender individuals and vulnerable areas along River Lai ensure inclusivity.

Shehersaaz provides logistical support and develops resources such as a certified Community Safety Manual. This agreement reinforces the mission to build safe and resilient communities.

GOVT FAIZ UL ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL- UPGRADING, RESTORING HERITAGE & LEARNING SPACES

Shehersaaz undertook the upgradation of Faiz ul Islam, a 170-year-old historic school located in Raja Bazaar Rawalpindi, to enhance safety, functionality, and inclusivity. The intervention focused on rehabilitating the ground floor Chemistry Lab, which was in a deteriorated and non-functional state due to damage, prior external use, and lack of maintenance.

REVITALIZING HERITAGE SPACES ENSURE THEY REMAIN SAFE, FUNCTIONAL, AND RELEVANT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Restoration included repainting walls and ceilings, repairing surfaces, addressing damaged shelving, and partially restoring lighting and fixtures. Despite delays caused by seepage and drying constraints, the project was completed within a month-long timeline. The upgraded laboratory now provides an improved and functional learning environment while preserving the building's historic character.

Feature:
NAYA SAFAR BEGINS AT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Building on its work under the PROGRESSIVE initiatives, Shehersaaz has launched Naya Safar, a one-year project at SOS Children's Village, GT Road, Rawalpindi, sponsored by S&P Global. The initiative aims to help strengthen the facility as a safe, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable living and learning space for children and caregivers.

The project formally commenced with an inaugural event held on 8th March 2026, where Shehersaaz marked the beginning of Naya Safar: A Journey of Hope, Growth and Resilience through an Iftar gathering at SOS Children's Home. The event brought together children, foster mothers, partners, and volunteers, reflecting a shared commitment to care, connection, and collective action.

Feature:
NAYA SAFAR BEGINS AT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Drawing on its earlier work in educational institutions, Shehersaaz brings experience in rainwater harvesting, kitchen gardening, rehabilitation of open spaces, safety and emergency preparedness initiatives and emotional wellbeing support activities.

NAYA SAFAR REFLECTS A SHARED COMMITMENT TO CARE, RESILIENCE, AND THE CREATION OF SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SPACES FOR CHILDREN AND CAREGIVERS.

The initiative also marks an important new direction for Shehersaaz through the introduction of emotional wellbeing and support for children and foster mothers. Art/cultural therapy is being introduced to encourage self-expression and critical thinking. In addition, an operational framework with weekly activity schedules will be developed to support the smooth and organized implementation of activities.

At the end of one year, the initiative is expected to contribute to improved emotional resilience among children, stronger relationships between caregivers and children, greater adoption of eco-friendly practices, and increased confidence and leadership among participants. In this way, Naya Safar reflects Shehersaaz's growing commitment to integrated interventions that support wellbeing, resilience, and positive development.