



Report on

# WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR 2011

organized by

Child and Social Development Organization (CSDO), Sialkot

under

“Child & Adolescents Protection Project” sponsored by UNICEF

on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 at Marriage City Hall, Sialkot



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## 1. Preamble

**C**hild and Social Development Organization (CSDO), Sialkot, is an offshoot of the Atlanta Agreement signed by UNICEF, ILO, and SCCI on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1997 to eliminate child labour in the Soccer ball Industry of Sialkot-Pakistan. CSDO has been established to carry forward Social Protection and Rehabilitation component of the Atlanta Agreement. UNICEF, ILO, WFSGI, FIFA, SCCI and all Soccer ball manufacturers participating in Child Labour Elimination Programme (CLEP) have been fully supporting CSDO since its inception (year 2002). Membership of CSDO is mandatory for all CLEP members which is a major source of strength to this organization.

CSDO has been implementing **UNICEF sponsored “Child & Adolescents Protection Project in Sialkot and its adjacent districts; Gujranwala and Narowal”** since May 2009. The Project has been very successful and received immense appreciation locally and internationally. The key components of the project are as follows;

- ✓ Social mobilization and community participation
- ✓ Formal and non-formal education
- ✓ Psycho-social support to children and their families
- ✓ Vocational skills
- ✓ Conditional cash grant for education for poorest of the poor children
- ✓ Children participation and empowerment

The District Government, Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and its Women Entrepreneurs’ Cell, the Business Community of Sialkot especially Soccer ball manufacturers have been providing every possible support to the project since its beginning (year 2009).

Under this project, eighteen non-formal education centers namely Talim-ul- Amal Centers (TACs) have been established in the backward areas of Sialkot and its adjacent districts; Gujranwala and Narowal. In these centers, currently **1,200** working/out-of-school children of the past are getting education and are being kept away from unhealthy activities. Identification and enrollment of more working/out-of-school children in the Centers is in progress. Eight hundred forty (840) children have been mainstreamed in formal schools from these Centers. **1,460** children mostly 5-7 years of age, have been enrolled in formal schools directly. These children are being monitored regularly to prevent dropout.

In collaboration with the District Government, CSDO organized Children Seminar to commemorate World Day against Child Labour (WDAKL) 2011 and raise awareness on child protection issues. This event was organized under Child & Adolescents Protection Project sponsored by UNICEF. Around 500 of Talim-ul-Amal Centers participated in the Seminar. Officials local Government, UNICEF, Office Bearers SCCI, CSDO members, representative of the NGOs, industrialists, teachers, parents of the students and members of the community based child protection committees, representatives of print and electronic media, etc attended the event to encourage the children.

## 2. Address of Welcome by the President CSDO

Shaikh Muhammad Yunas Ratra, President CSDO warmly welcomed the worthy guests and participants in the Seminar. While sharing remarkable achievements of “Child & Adolescents Protection Project”, he extended special thanks to UNICEF for



their financial support towards the protection of children in Sialkot and its adjacent districts; Gujranwala and Narowal. He thanked Mr. Tariq Zaman Khan EDO-Revenue and Planning, Ghulam Mustafa Chaudhary President SCCI and Ms. Afshan Tehseen Child Protection Officer UNICEF Lahore for attending the Seminar despite their very busy schedule. He requested the UNICEF, District Government and SCCI to continue their support for the continuity of the Project.

### **3. Achievement of the Project**

While sharing one of the key achievements of the Project, the Project Coordinator (Mr. Ijaz) said that 57 working and neglected children had passed grade 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Board Examination 2011. (5<sup>th</sup> class: 31 and 8<sup>th</sup> class 26 children).

### **4. Performance by the Children of Talim-ul-Amal Centers (TACs) established under the Project**

The students of TACs participated in various competitions like hamad, naat, mili nagma, stage play on child protection issues, tableaux, speeches on the importance of education and hazardous of child labour, etc. A special dialogue among the students of Talim-ul-Amal Centers (TACs), business community, representative of UNICEF and Officials of District Government was initiated which was very inspiring for the audience. During the dialogue, children raised various questions to the employers and Government officials for the protection of their rights. While responding to the questions raised by the students, the Government officials and employers assured their every possible support to address the issues related to children on priority. An excellent event gave a chance of participation, and to raise the voice of the marginalized children. The audience appreciated the confidence and performance of the children.



### **5. Success stories shared by the students of TACs**

The children stated that UNICEF and CSDO support had turned their life from work to school. Now they have sublime ideas and wished to continue their education. Some children of the backward areas of Sialkot who had passed Middle Class Board Examination 2011 stated that due to non-availability of Middle and High Schools in their areas they are unable to continue their studies. Under the Project, currently CSDO is providing free education upto class 8<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, most of the children feared that if the project stops by end of 2011, they will not be able to continue their education. The children requested the UNICEF, Government and CSDO to continue their support so that they can complete their education. The children also requested the Government to set up at least matriculation level schools in their areas.

### **6. Views by the Community Members**

The community members (Mr. Muadsar from village Alhar and Mr. Mumtaz Ahmed Sohal from Kotli Loharan) thanked UNICEF and CSDO for providing free of cost education and skill training to the vulnerable children and adolescents of their areas. They further stated that because of CSDO's interventions, the community of their areas has been better sensitized and mobilized to give protection to their children.

## 7. Experience sharing by a Teacher

Miss Munaza Senior Teacher TAC Gohad Pur sharing her experience, said that she and her other college teachers have put their heart and soul to enroll and educate the Junk Collectors, working and out-of-school children, in the Centers. She added that due to the excellent behavior of teachers with students there was a great attachment between teachers and students that pave the way of success to this project.



## 8. ADDRESS BY:

### 8.1 Mr. Tariq Zaman Khan, EDO-Revenue and Planning Sialkot

On behalf of the District Coordination Officer (DCO) Sialkot, Mr. Tariq Zaman Khan EDO-Revenue and Planning attended the function. He appreciated the efforts of CSDO and UNICEF for the protection of children in Sialkot and its adjacent districts; Gujranwala and Narowal. He assured that the District Government would continue its full support to the project.



### 8.2 Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Chaudhry, President, Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI)



Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Chaudhry President SCCI appreciated the efforts of CSDO in achieving marvelous success of the project. He thanked UNICEF for their continued support in providing protection to the marginalized children and community. He added that the Chamber has been playing an important role to eliminate child labour from the Soccer ball Industry of Sialkot since 1997. Moreover, he said that the Chamber would continue its every possible support to ensure continuity of the project. He emphasized that UNICEF and Government must continue their major role for the continuity and expansion of the project in district-Sialkot.

### 8.3 Ms. Afshan Tehseen, Child Protection Officer UNICEF, Lahore

Miss Afshan Tahseen CPO UNICEF-Punjab stated that she was so impressed to witness the performances of the children in front of such a large audience. She appreciated and thanked the district Government and the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce for their full support towards the Project. While sharing her field visit experience to the TACs, she apprised the audience of the beautiful handwriting, and learning abilities of TACs students. She added that the continuity and sustainability of the project is essential for sustaining the benefits of educating 4,000 children. She stated that UNICEF will continue its support if the SCCI and district Government comes fully on Board to ensure continuity of the Project. She appreciated the children for their active participation and encouraged them to continue their



education. She also appreciated the hard work of CSDO team in accomplishing the set objectives of the Project.

## 9. Prize Distribution

The guests awarded prizes to the winning children of the event and position holders of annual examination 2011 of Talim-ul-Amal Centers. Excellence Performance shields were also awarded to the Teachers and Monitoring Staff.



## 10. Vote of Thanks

Mr. Ijaz Ahmed Project Coordinator thanked the worthy guests and the children for their active participation in the event and making it a huge success. He appreciated the CSDO Team for their hard work and best efforts in organizing the program. He expressed special gratitude to UNICEF, District Government, SCCI, Office Bearers and Members of CSDO for their continued support to accomplish the project activities on time. He also thanked the representative of Print and Electronic Media for their participation and give coverage to the event. In the end of the event refreshment was served to all the participants and children.

## 11. Abbreviations

<b>CLEP</b> Child Labor Elimination Project	<b>UNICEF</b> United Nation Children's Fund
<b>CSDO</b> Child & Social Development Organization	<b>SCCI</b> Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry
<b>DCO</b> District Coordination Officer	<b>TAC</b> Talim-ul-Amal Center
<b>EDO</b> Executive District Officer	<b>WADCL</b> World Day Against Child Labor
<b>FIFA</b> Federation Internationale de Football Association	<b>WFSGI</b> World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry
<b>ILO</b> International Labour Organization	
<b>NGO</b> Non-Government Organization	



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