

Success Story: Empowering Local Women Leaders to Strengthen Social Protection in Rahim Yar Khan

Under the project “Civil Society Calls for Universal Social Protection Floors,” AwazCDS-Pakistan, through its partner organization Jaag Welfare Movement in Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab, continues to strengthen community engagement for improved social protection access.

One inspiring example comes from Basti Kahur Khan, where Ms. Kausar Mai, an active community member trained under the project, has become a key local facilitator. Having participated in Awaz-led trainings on social protection awareness and citizen facilitation, she now assists community members in accessing government schemes particularly helping women obtain and renew their Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) cards.

During the recent Diwali celebrations, Kausar Mai played a leading role in mobilizing and accommodating many community members, creating a safe and inclusive space for information-sharing and mutual support. Her proactive role has earned her respect within the community people now frequently approach her for guidance and invite her to local gatherings to share information about social protection programs and benefits.

In addition, with support from Jaag, Kausar Mai has been able to open a vocational center for girls and women in the area. She is actively taking tools and guidance from Jaag to run the center effectively, further empowering women and creating sustainable opportunities for skill development and economic participation.

This case demonstrates how the project’s capacity-building efforts are enabling grassroots women leaders to act as local change agents, bridging the gap between marginalized communities and government social protection mechanisms in southern Punjab.

