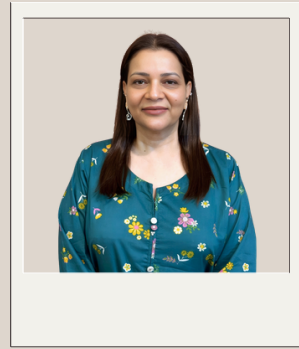




2025 Annual Report

A Year of Action, Advocacy, and
Transformation

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE



The year 2025 marked a significant turning point for youth development in Pakistan, reflecting a growing recognition of youth as active contributors to national progress. A major milestone was the launch of the National Youth Council (NYC) under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYC), with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif administering the oath. Alongside this, a nationwide consultative process, undertaken in collaboration with UNICEF, was initiated to develop the National Adolescent and Youth Policy, laying the groundwork for a more inclusive and responsive policy framework.

Bargad played an active and strategic role in both initiatives. Our team participated in the NYC launch, while I had the privilege of serving as focal person for youth policy under PMYP. Through surveys, consultations, and focus group discussions, we engaged marginalized and religious minority youth across Punjab, ensuring their voices informed national discourse. Our contribution as a resource organization reflects our commitment to inclusive, evidence-based advocacy.

Bargad deepened its national impact by consulting youth champions across Pakistan, producing policy paper, mapping study on youth and climate change and forwarding youth recommendations to the government of Pakistan. A flagship mental health initiative was launched to develop 320 youth champions. We also documented and launched 20 case studies of street women entrepreneurs from marginalized communities, while continuing coalition building efforts to strengthen collective action and advance an inclusive, youth led development agenda in Pakistan.

Globally, 2025 was equally transformative. At the 80th United Nations General Assembly, youth were, for the first time, formally recognized as equal partners in shaping global priorities an important shift we have long advocated for.

Bargad's global engagement also expanded. At COP30 in Brazil, collaboration with FDI, organized a session at the Pakistan Pavilion and engaged with key leadership, including the Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and senior ministers of Punjab, Pakistan. I also had the opportunity to connect with global leaders, including the former Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern.

Furthermore, our engagement with the Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Workers Associations and participation in the 10th Commonwealth Youth Workers Conference in Malaysia strengthened our global presence, where we were honored with the Commonwealth Youth Worker Award.

All these achievements are a testament to the hardwork of the Bargad team, who meaningfully continue transforming policies and practices for youth development. Thank you Bargad team.

SABIHA SHAHEEN



From its student-led origins, Bargad has evolved into a leading force in **youth development**. Over 28 years, it has implemented more than **100 projects**, catalyzed **1,600+ youth-led actions**, and reached **over 500,000 young people** and women nationwide. With **3,500 volunteers** across **104 districts** and partnerships in **86 universities**, Bargad has also helped shape empowering youth policies in Pakistani provinces, leading reforms, budget allocations, and meaningful inclusion in economy, social life, and governance.

ABOUT BARGAD

In 1997, a group of students in Lahore set out to create what their campuses lacked: safe, inclusive spaces where youth, both boys and girls together, could engage, express, and grow. At a time when student engagement was largely confined to divisive politics and limited co-curricular platforms, these young changemakers envisioned an alternative – one rooted in dialogue, inclusion, and shared learning. They imagined a space where youth could question norms, assert their identities, and build collective strength with a positive self-image.

This vision took shape as Bargad, formally registered in 1998 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. Named after the banyan tree, a traditional gathering place, Bargad became a symbolic and practical sanctuary for youth voices in Pakistan.



BARGAD VISION, MISSION & PROGRAMME AREAS

VISION

Socially responsible, politically aware, forward looking and gender sensitive youth that respects freedom, equality and rule of law.

MISSION

- 1 Engage vulnerable youth and women in all diversity to their full potential through education, mentorship and innovative interventions designed to enhance their overall well-being.
- 2 To invest in youth-led and youth-centred ideas, to convene key stakeholders in the sector and advocate for systems and policy changes that meet youths' needs.
- 3 Engage youth to end violence against women

PROGRAMME AREAS

SOCIO-ECONOMIC
INCLUSION AND
TRANSFORMATION

HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING

CIVIC EDUCATION
AND LEADERSHIP

CLIMATE CHANGE
EDUCATION

PEACE AND YOUTH
COOPERATION

STRENGTHENING
YOUNG CSOS



PROJECTS

2025

Faith in Action (FIAP)

Communities of Hope (CoH)

ACTIVE – Youth Volunteering for Inclusive Development

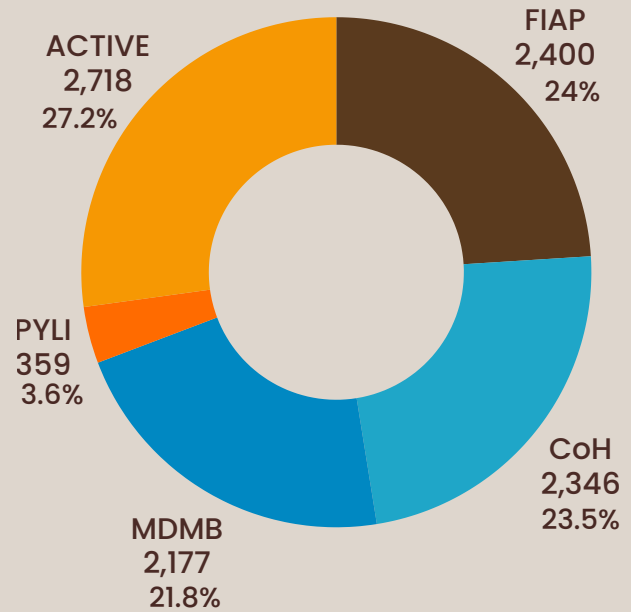
My Dream My Business (MDMB)

Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI)

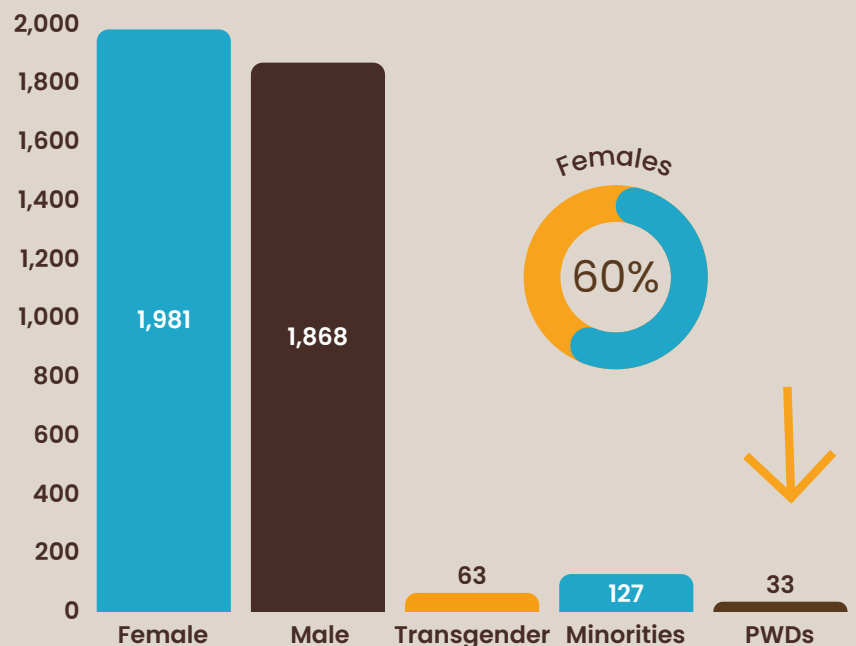
Building the Ecosystem for Youth Mental Health

16 Days of Activism on Gender-Based Violence

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES



BARGAD 2025 INCLUSION IMPACT



YEAR 2025 IN NUMBERS



DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

10,000

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES: **1,228,256**

ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN

Total Activities: 300+



SAPs

60



Formal Meetings

8



Sessions

285



Trainings

11



Events & Campaigns

7



Diversity Tours

2

WORKFORCE/ CAPACITY BUILDING & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Internships: 22



Districts Covered: 90



Women & Youth Empowered: 2177



Businesses Established: 110



A Master Trainer Cohort: 20



DIGITAL REACH

TOTAL MEDIA REACH

TOTAL VIEWS

TOTAL IMPRESSIONS

885K+

982K+

1.48M

PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTS



COMMUNITIES OF HOPE (COH)

Promoted peaceful coexistence and human rights through community engagement. Built trust among diverse groups and strengthened linkages with institutions. Enabled inclusive conflict resolution across Lahore and Gujranwala.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERING FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT (ACTIVE)

Mobilized youth through NYVN to lead volunteerism and social action initiatives. Engaged communities through awareness campaigns and inclusive development efforts. Contributed to advocacy on Global Volunteering Standards (GVS).

MY DREAM MY BUSINESS (MDMB)

My Dream My Business empowered women and youth to move from limited opportunities to economic independence and confidence. Through skills development, mentorship, and institutional linkages, participants built sustainable livelihoods, strengthened their decision-making power, and became active contributors to their families and communities.

FAITH IN ACTION (FIAP)

Strengthened interfaith harmony through Local Peace Structures across communities. Engaged faith leaders and citizens in dialogue, conflict prevention, and collaboration. Promoted inclusion and climate-conscious community action at the grassroots level.

PAKISTAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (PYLI)

PYLI engaged youth across provinces in climate governance through consultations, research, and policy dialogue. The project amplified youth voices in climate decision-making and contributed to national policy processes by generating evidence-based recommendations for inclusive climate action.

BUILDING THE ECOSYSTEM FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

This project focuses on strengthening youth mental health and wellbeing through ecosystem-building and capacity development. In 2025, Bargad initiated the project by engaging key partners and establishing a diverse cohort of Master Trainers, laying the foundation for collaborative and inclusive mental health interventions.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Engaged youth through a national campaign addressing digital violence, combining advocacy, awareness sessions in schools, through nationwide Reel competition, radio program, Dignitary Messages videos & creative expression art activity with girls of schools to promote safer spaces.

KEY COLLABORATIONS – 2025



GOVERNMENT & POLICY INSTITUTIONS

- Prime Minister Youth Program
- Punjab Women Protection Authority
- Human Rights & Minorities Affairs Department (HR&MAD)
- Ministry of Climate Change Environmental Coordination
- Youth Affairs & Sports Department, Punjab
- Environment Protection Department (EPD), Punjab
- Punjab Higher Education Commission
- NADRA
- Safe Cities Authority, Punjab
- Punjab Ombudsperson Office
- Police Department / IG Office
- Radio Pakistan
- Forest Department, Sargodha District

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

- Crossing Barriers
- Forum for Dignity Initiatives
- Khawaja Sira Society
- Mainstream Association for PWD,s
- Dastak
- AWAM Pakistan
- Youth Advocacy Council Pakistan
- Youth Development Foundation
- Sahar Welfare Organization
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Research Development Foundation
- Indus Youth Welfare Organization
- Al-Khidmat Foundation
- Muslim Hands International
- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- Gender Interactive Alliance
- Sahara Organization
- Pakistan Mental Health Coalition (PMHC)



KEY COLLABORATIONS 2025

DONORS & IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- VSO Pakistan
- Chanan Development Association
- British Council Pakistan
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Education Above All Foundation
- British Asian Trust (BAT)
- Individualland Trust
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

collaborated with **43** educational institutions across Pakistan, including universities Engaged:

- Lahore College for Women University (LCWU)
- University of Central Punjab(UCP)
- Kinnaird College for Women University, Lahore
- University of Education, Lahore
- Government College University (GCU), Lahore
- University of the Punjab, Lahore
- Forman Christian College,Lahore



CLIMATE ACTION ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Bargad at COP30 | Belém, Brazil (2025)

Bargad was present at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, 2025 — building on its COP29 engagement in Baku and deepening its role as Pakistan's voice for inclusive, faith-based, and community-rooted climate action.

Pakistan's delegation at COP30 centred on a powerful and just framing: a country contributing less than 1% to global emissions, yet consistently ranked among the ten most climate-vulnerable nations in the world, bearing the consequences of decisions made elsewhere.



PAKISTAN YOUTH AT THE GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT

Bargad's youth **advocate Sidra Riaz** served on the YOUNGO Policy Team and the Global Youth Statement Taskforce at COP30, representing Pakistan among 30,000+ global youth participants. She helped draft the statement, negotiate language, organise youth consultations, and moderated a major session at COY20 Brazil.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Need for stronger youth inclusion in climate governance
- Importance of localizing global commitments like NDCs
- Youth networks can drive community-level climate action

WAY FORWARD

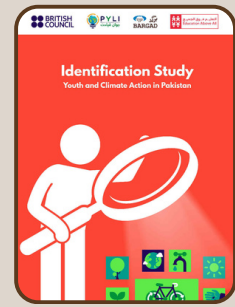
Bargad will continue to strengthen youth engagement in climate action, expand community-based initiatives, and promote inclusive climate policies through partnerships and advocacy at national and global levels.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS

-  Co-organised **"Climate Justice Begins with Inclusion"** panel at the **Pakistan Pavilion** (Nov 12, 2025) with MOCC&EC and FDI Initiatives exploring systemic exclusion of women, PWDs, transgender communities, rural youth, and religious minorities from climate finance and governance.
-  High-level meetings with **Secretary Aisha Humera Chaudhary** and **Joint Secretary Nazia Zeb** (MOCC&EC) on structured youth entry points into climate governance.
-  Engagement with Punjab **Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb** and **CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz** on embedding sustainability into provincial planning.

YOUTH & CLIMATE ACTION

Bargad's landmark **"Identification Study: Youth and Climate Action in Pakistan"**, published under the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) in **May 2025**, provides a comprehensive mapping of the climate challenges landscape concerning youth, examining the policies, networks, and institutional frameworks that shape their participation. Drawing on desk research and insights from climate experts, youth champions, and practitioners from all four provinces, this study maps barriers and opportunities for youth in climate action. Through real-world cases and strategic pathways, it is a reference document that equips youth, policymakers, educators, and civil society to enable youth-led advocacy for a more sustainable future.



KEY FINDING

Despite 64% of Pakistan's population being under 30, young people remain largely excluded from climate policy discussions."

Identification Study, May 2025 —Bargad / British Council PYLI

POLICY IMPACT

- Consolidated recommendations formally submitted to Prime Minister Youth Programme.
- Findings being integrated into the National Adolescent and Youth Policy (NAYP) currently under development.
- connected 359 youth champions directly with PYLI, British Council, PMYP, UNDP, and representatives of provincial governments.



BRINGING COP30 HOME

Post-COP Forum & Climate Gala

Climate Gala 2025, held in two phases with partner institutions, brought together youth, policymakers, and community leaders to promote inclusive climate action. Through the launch of **Inclusive Climate Action Network (I-CAN)** and interactive discussions, the initiative **engaged 500+ participants**, strengthening youth voices and emphasizing the need to translate climate dialogue into community-level action. The initiative connected climate awareness with practical action.



KEY MILESTONES

NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN YOUTH POLICY LEADERSHIP

Bargad's Executive Director, Ms. Sabiha Shaheen, was appointed as **Focal Person for National Adolescents and Youth Policy** by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP). This milestone positioned Bargad at the forefront of national-level youth policy development, creating a direct pathway to integrate youth-led perspectives, volunteerism standards, and inclusive practices into Pakistan's policy framework.



COMMONWEALTH AWARD 2025 — GLOBAL RECOGNITION



Ms. Sabiha Shaheen was honoured with the Commonwealth **Award 2025** for her Outstanding **Contribution to Youth Work**, one of the highest recognitions by the Commonwealth Secretariat. This global recognition highlighted Bargad's decades-long commitment to youth empowerment, inclusion, and community-led development, placing its work on an international platform.

FIRST-TIME INTERFAITH CELEBRATION AT MUSLIM CENTRE

In a historic moment of inclusion and trust, Bargad facilitated the first time Christmas celebration at a faith based Muslim place **Qaumi Islami Markaz, Lahore**. This milestone reflected years of community engagement through Local Peace Structures, demonstrating how dialogue and relationship-building can transform spaces into symbols of interfaith harmony.



MAJOR EVENTS

27 YEARS OF BARGAD — A TRIBUTE TO RESILIENCE & GROWTH

Bargad marked 27 years of continuous service to Pakistan's youth and communities. The anniversary brought together current and former team members, volunteers, community partners, and donors to celebrate a legacy of inclusion, innovation, and impact and to renew a shared commitment to the next chapter.

4TH VICE CHANCELLORS' CONFERENCE — INCLUSIVITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Co-organised with the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), the 4th Vice Chancellors' Conference brought together 50+ Vice Chancellors from public and private universities across Punjab. The conference resulted in two private universities UCP and UOL voluntarily adopting the 2% minority quota, an MOC signed between Bargad and PHEC, and key recommendations on interfaith clubs, climate education, and minority student support systems.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY — CELEBRATING YOUTH IN ACTION

Bargad and VSO Pakistan, in collaboration with PMYP, marked International Volunteer Day at HEC Islamabad, engaging 296 participants from youth, government, and civil society. The event featured the launch of the National Volunteer Corps, aiming to train 200,000 youth in climate resilience and disaster response



BARGAD VOLUNTEER NETWORK (BVN)

The **Bargad Volunteer Network (BVN)** is Pakistan extensive **youth volunteer platforms**, operating across **53 universities** and **120 districts** in all **4 provinces** and **2 regions including Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit Balistan** involve in community development, climate action, and social inclusion initiatives. BVN mobilized youth to lead social action projects, interfaith activities, climate campaigns, and community engagement initiatives. BVN actively collaborated with government institutions and development partners, providing youth with opportunities to contribute to policy advocacy, volunteerism, and grassroots impact.



BARGAD VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH INITIATIVE

In 2025, Bargad launched the “Volunteer of the Month” initiative **started in July** to recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions of young volunteers across its network. This initiative highlights youth who demonstrate leadership, commitment, and innovation in community service, climate action, inclusion, and advocacy. Selected volunteers were recognized monthly based on their impact, engagement, and contribution to Bargad’s mission.

FEATURED VOLUNTEERS



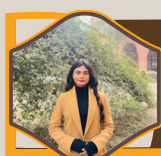
Asma Arif



Umar Ali Bhatti



Meerab Gulraiz



Roma Shamshad



Rahimah Hashmi



Fahad Manzoor

SUCCESS STORIES

Youth & Community Transformation

MINORITY EDUCATION INCLUSION

Bargad continued its advocacy for the **2% minority quota** in higher education. In 2025, Bargad facilitated university **admissions** for **127 minority students** and strengthened institutional commitments to inclusion, including adoption of minority quotas by universities

In 2025, Bargad compiled a **Booklet featuring 20 success stories of women entrepreneurs** under the My Dream My Business (MDMB) initiative. This captures powerful journeys of resilience, where women moved beyond economic limitations to build sustainable livelihoods, strengthen their confidence, & take active roles within their families and communities



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT – MDMB

Women's Economic Empowerment & Livelihoods: Through the "My Dream, My Business" project, over **2,000 women and youth** were **empowered**, leading to **110 businesses launched** and Through entrepreneurship training and financial inclusion, women **increased their monthly income** from PKR 15,000–20,000 to PKR 30,000–40,000, gaining economic independence and social recognition.



COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING

Local Peace Structures **resolved 18 cases** of conflict and human rights violations, promoting peaceful coexistence and strengthening trust among communities.



WAY FORWARD

As Bargad moves forward, the organization builds on the momentum of 2025 with a strengthened commitment to inclusive development, youth leadership, and community-driven change. The experiences and learnings from this year have reinforced the importance of investing in young people as active contributors to social transformation.

Building on the success of its programmes, Bargad aims to scale initiatives that promote women's economic empowerment, interfaith harmony, and volunteerism. The organization will also work towards strengthening institutional mechanisms, such as the Bargad Skill Development Institution (BSDI), to ensure sustainability and long-term impact.



Looking ahead, Bargad envisions a society where young people from all backgrounds are empowered to lead, participate, and influence systems that shape their futures. With continued dedication, collaboration, and innovation, the organization remains committed to building an inclusive, equitable, and resilient Pakistan.

Meet OUR TEAM



Sabiha Shaheen
Executive Director



Saiqa Rani
Director Program



Sarfraz Ahmed
Sr. Manager- Finance & planning



Adnan Butt
Finance Manager



Minza Yaqoob
HR/Logistic Coordinator



Muhannad Shahbaz
Operations Coordinator



Minahil Aslam
Branding &
communication Manager



Sahar Sohail
MEAL Officer



Rabia Dar
Program Coordinator



Usama Nasir
Program Coordinator



Hussain Sajjad Hashmi
Project Coordinator



Ahmed Zafar
Program Officer



Aliza Aziz
Project Officer



Syeda Zainab Fatima
Programme Officer



Mehak Bibi
Admin / Finance officer



Sidra Hameed
Field Officer

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Executive Director



Prof. Shahid Mahmood Gul
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Ms. Saima Ali
Director



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Director



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Dr. Surriya Choudhary
Director



Ms. Christina Daud
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