

**Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

It is with great respect that I provide this letter of support from Sightsavers for Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Programme (CHIP).


Sightsavers is an international organization that changes lives for the long term by protecting and restoring sight and fighting for disability rights.

Sightsavers work in 30 countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and support people with visual impairments to live independently. In Pakistan we have been working since 1985 with local partner organizations nationwide in all the four provinces and AJK. These partners range from government ministries of health and education to community-based non-governmental organizations.

We have worked with CHIP in District Swabi and Jehlum for mainstreaming disability in the local development agenda. Our joint venture supported the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and local government to work together to promote and strengthen the establishment of Citizen Community Boards in District Jehlum, Punjab Province as provided by the Local Government Ordinances of 2001. These CSOs/CBOs were specifically supported to enable disabled people to realise their rights to participate in decision making processes which affect their lives, through social mobilisation using a rights based approach. Lessons and recommendations were utilised to advocate for the implementation of legislation and pro-disability poverty alleviation strategies within the mainstream development agenda. CHIP is one of our very few partners who internalised the concept of gender and equity inclusion across the organization and its programme portfolio.

At the heart of any partnership is a solid relationship based on good open communication. Sightsavers would always like to work with CHIP in future whenever there is an opportunity, to deliver inclusive and accessible services to contribute for the creation of an inclusive society in Pakistan.

CHIP is a highly respected organization and is recognized nationally and internationally for their innovative programs that empower poor communities in general and people with disabilities in particular.



**Syeda Munazza Gillani**  
**Country Director**