

Dec 2023



Community Engagement Event



"Fostering Community Resilience"

HOPE Community Unity Celebration:

Strengthening Bonds and Building Confidence

Hope Worldwide-Pakistan organized a vibrant and inclusive Cultural Night as part of the "Fostering Community Resilience" program, aimed at supporting communities impacted by the January/February 2023 weather events in the Greater Auckland region. The event exceeded expectations, bringing together diverse communities and offering a platform for cultural exchange, connection, and support.







Highlights:

Diverse Participation: The Cultural Night saw enthusiastic participation from people of various backgrounds and ethnicities. Attendees included flood victims and families, individuals experiencing homelessness, recent migrants, asylum seekers, former refugees, and community members.

Unity Through Culture: The event showcased the beauty of cultural diversity. Attendees had the opportunity to celebrate their cultures and learn from others. This not only celebrated our differences but also highlighted our shared humanity.


Community Building: Children mingled with peers from different backgrounds, while the elderly enjoyed connecting with others. Newcomers expressed their gratitude for the warm welcome and support received from Hope Worldwide-Pakistan.

Resilience and Support: Many attendees had faced significant challenges, including the loss of homes due to the weather events and delays in insurance claims. The event provided moral support, blankets, towels, and hygiene kits, offering comfort and hope for a brighter future.

Cross-Cultural Exchange: The Maori group's warm welcome and acknowledgment of other ethnicities exemplified the spirit of unity. Attendees enjoyed a delightful array of Pakistani, Indian, and Eritrean cuisine, further enhancing the cultural exchange.

Positive Impact: Attendees expressed how events like these serve as energy boosters. One asylum seeker even received assurance of a new job opportunity, underlining the tangible impact of such gatherings.





Voices of Resilience: Stories from Beneficiaries of the 'Fostering Community Resilience' Program.



Beneficiary Feedback 1:

Name: Sarah (Not real name)

Sarah, a flood victim, shared her thoughts after attending the Cultural Night: "I've been through some tough times after our house was damaged by the floods. But tonight, I felt like I belong to a big, caring family. Meeting people from different backgrounds, trying delicious food, and watching the Maori group perform—it was a beautiful experience. I can't thank Hope Worldwide-Pakistan enough for bringing our community together like this. It's not just about food and shelter; it's about healing and resilience."

Beneficiary Feedback 2:

Name: Ahmed (Not real name)

Ahmed, a recent refugee from Burundi, expressed his gratitude: "Events like this are like an energy booster for me. Coming to a new country, I felt lonely and lost. But tonight, I met so many friendly faces, tried foods I've never tasted before, and even got to dance with people from all over the world. The support from Hope Worldwide-Pakistan has been incredible. They provided us with blankets, hygiene kits, and most importantly, a sense of belonging. This Cultural Night has given me hope and strength to face the challenges ahead."