

PAKISTAN MISSION UNIT CLM REPORT

1. It will be an image of a stream/ River.

2. It was 2019 when the PMU received another team of LM after 6 years. Two LMs from the Philippines (Mona and Hazel) were welcomed by the PMU on May 2019. Both were assigned in Badin Parish after language studies –a Columban parish from 2020 to 2022. On April they both finished their term and one came back for the next term.

Partnership between the ordained and Lay Missionaries has been long established, the group is small so integration is easier. All PMU members support CLM, and own it. The LM/s are a valued member of the PMU. A member of the PMU finds the Lm/s very competent and has a very good self-awareness and self-image. Their presence to the PMU balance the male society. The LMs are a full and equal partner in all PMU activities-meetings, review of life, discernments, leadership etc. Support Structure are in place and implemented.

On the ministry, the Parish has a lot to offer. We have women ministry, simple catechism for children, and the health -area where the LM takes responsibility. This is a significant example of the leadership capabilities of women and its importance especially in Pakistan where women are not highly esteemed as men in the society in general. JPIC/IRD is also observed in the health clinic and outreach program.

Documents such as GOP and POA are in place. The LM/s are also given the opportunity to be part of a group offered by the Society i.e; Safeguarding, CCWG.

3. Just as water erodes even the strongest of rocks, persistence and hard work can overcome any obstacle. What areas of CLM in your RMU need attention and why? What are you doing to address those areas for your RMU?

CLM structure is there and grateful for having a woman missionary to be the LM/s Personal Companion. Due to geographical distance the LM/s sometimes meets with their Personal Companion every month or so. It is a challenge to find a qualified SD in the country so we explore online options for this. The GOP was re-done in 2020 and to be revisited this 2024. The CLM POA was also in place but there's a need to look at it by 2024.

One of the biggest issue raised is that there is only one LM and only female. There is not much we can do about this, but it would be good if we could get another programme for support for the LM and to ensure the LM presence continues in the PMU long term. There is a need for focus and skills in order to be more effective in ministry; the PMU supported the LM in doing a three-month course in TB and womes's health issues in order to be trained in these areas and so be able to be more effective in the health ministry in Badin parish which is now happening.

The full support of the ordained especially those in the mission for long encourages the LM/s to be more confident living in the country. Physical activities for self-care is also difficult.

Having a place to relax away from the ministry is a bit of difficulty this time. Local holiday can be obtained when there are other missionaries who goes on a trip.

The LM/s is now with 7 ordained from different nationalities (3 Filipinos, 1Fijian,1New Zealand, and 2 Irish) so there's a need for Intercultural facilitation. Joe Joyce has been doing this until he left Pakistan.

4. The depth of water holds infinite possibilities. What new possibilities within CLM are emerging in your RMU?

There are a number of possibilities for LMs in terms of ministry as we have recently opened a new parish in the Tribal ministry, which has many possibilities in the field of education, catechesis, health work etc. The existing parish in Badin is also very busy with multiple ministries; the PMU priority areas of JPIC and IRD offer many possibilities for LMs.

There are four Columbans under six years ordained in the PMU, which means a young and active support network as well as the long-standing and accepted way of partnership among all members, all adds up a good support structure for LMs and future LMs to thrive in.

Considering that there only few of us here and there are many key roles in our structure that Lay Missionaries could handle well. There should be more participation in Key roles in the PMU.

Areas of ministry are opening up, especially in health area, as well as a presence with women, which ordained members cannot reach.

Because of the examples of LM/s other Lay people have become aware of the fact that they can become more active in mission. Synodality and vocation of Lay People are slowly surfacing.

5. OTHER COMMENTS:

The proposal to stop recruiting for the LM programme for five years to be put forward to be discussed at the CLM long-term meeting next January, is concerning. If accepted, this will have a significant and potentially very damaging effect on the CLM and could even lead to its demise.

We are lucky to have an experienced and committed LM assigned to the PMU.

With only one LM in the PMU it does limit the extent that partnership can happen. It would be good to receive more LMs, but the numbers around the LM SSC world suggests that we will not receive new LMs. Is it possible to invite an LM from another RMU, who may be tempted by a new challenge?

The possibility of local Lay missionary to other RMU-SIM program?