COVER

PPAF funded drinking Water Supply Scheme in Mithi,
Tharparkar – Sindh

PAGE 3

Livestock provided to the ultra-poor communities of D.I. Khan under the Livelihood Enhancement & Protection Programme

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The Yourjogh Microhydel Power Plant, providing electricity to the residents of Garam Chashma, Chitral – KP

PAGE 1

Date processing in district Turbat, Balochistan. PPAF formed CIGs and trained them in date processing to enhance collective bargaining

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The 11, 575 feet long link road is benefiting communities of Lalu village, District Buner
KP under LACIP

PAGE 10

A woman in UC Mithi, Tharparkar utilized PPAF microfinance facility for production of embroidered cardboard folders

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
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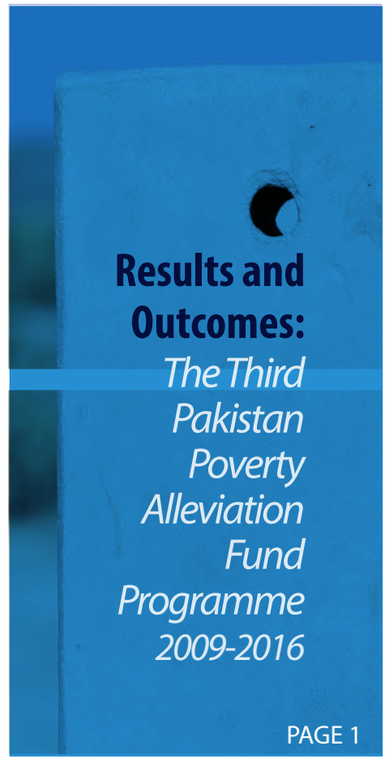
DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE

VOLUME 2 ISSUE. I 2017

TACKLING INEQUALITIES



Results and Outcomes: *The Third Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund Programme 2009-2016*

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Understanding the essence of poverty to address inequalities

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With PPAF Fact File featuring cumulative figures updates as of March 2017

RESULTS AND OUTCOMES: THE THIRD PAKISTAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION FUND PROGRAMME, 2009-2016

"The key focus in PPAF III then became about ensuring inclusion through placing mandates on community institutions (60% poorest household and 40% women's representation in these institutions)."

PPAF targeted the poorest rural communities with a focus on women, the marginalized and persons with disabilities

With the end of the third Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund Programme (PPAF III) in 2016, PPAF has seen a number of noteworthy outcomes including the growth of the microfinance sector into one which is rated as one of the best in the world according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, organizing over 120,000 community institutions (cumulatively from the start of PPAF I to date) with a core focus on inclusion of women and the poorest, developing the capacity of 130 civil society organizations, and taking to scale a poverty graduation approach that has shown to significantly and positively impact income, consumption and wealth of the poorest households.

PPAF III, financed by the World Bank, began in 2009 and closed in March 2016 with the objective to empower the targeted poor with increased incomes, improved productive capacity and access to services to achieve sustainable livelihoods. The project built on eight years of previous experience, realignments, challenges, and opportunities that were part of moving from PPAF I to III, and aimed to improve poverty outcomes through a deepening and saturation approach in targeted areas.

In 2008/2009, research conducted by the World Bank's Development Economics Research Group (DECRG) found that while PPAF and its partner organizations had done well on building community infrastructure, these interventions were not reaching the poorest, nor women, as originally intended as most community organizations were made up of a majority of men and those with landholdings (i.e. women and the poorest/landless were being systematically excluded). In the study, participants were asked how they would allocate funding for different resources to determine how people would develop their villages. It was found that women preferred to allocate money for drinking water, sanitation, health, schooling, and skills training. Men had different preferences – electricity, solar power, watercourses, and roads. Poor households wanted expenditures on health and sanitation, and demonstrated less interest in irrigation.

The key focus in PPAF III then became about ensuring inclusion through placing mandates on community institutions (representation of 60% poorest households and 40% women in these institutions). The endline evaluation conducted in 2016 showed that in inclusion villages close to 60% of the development funds provided were spent on projects women/the poorest prioritized, including 45% on toilets, drinking water, and health expenditures, and only 35% was spent on projects men prioritised. These village organizations had a significantly larger share of women leaders, and ensuring inclusion lowered the probability of elite capture (only 4% of VO presidents were local influentials as compared to 19% in non-inclusion villages).

Thus a key success of PPAF III has been about successfully addressing specific challenges around inclusion, and through this fundamental shift, having some positive impact on addressing structural inequities. However, a critical question remains – that is what happens after donor funding stops? Do community institutions survive or do villages revert to their original structural underpinnings? Evidence from across Pakistan and other countries shows that the challenge of addressing structural inequities is a long-term process, and gains made during a project must continue to be supported beyond, if true empowerment/change is to occur. This is a challenge that PPAF is aware of, and is in the process of designing a multi-facted solution for. A strategy for providing lifeline support funds to organizations that meet certain criteria in terms of governance and their contribution to sustainable development goals (SDGs) is in process.

PPAF III also allowed PPAF the opportunity to develop an integrated livelihoods framework by 2013. Not only did this framework ensure that assets were received by the ultra and vulnerable poor (0-18), but the use of the poverty scorecard with community verification as a mechanism for targeting the ultra-poor beneficiaries on a large scale was an achievement in and of itself. The creation of the various livelihood platforms (common interest groups, production centres, employment-or-enterprise centres, digital hubs) were a response to the realization that an eco-system to strengthen livelihoods interventions, was a critical need. The experience with these innovations has been mixed and will continue to be reflected on and shared by PPAF in its capacity as a repository of knowledge and a learning organization.

The PPAF III Project Completion Report by the World Bank stated that "…a comparative assessment of the BISP safety net programme and PPAF's livelihood strategy shows that using the PPAF strategy, BISP could effectively graduate 2.5 million women out of poverty every year." The more efficient and cost-effective PPAF model aggregated payment to a beneficiary over two to three years to achieve an average monthly income that is more than twice that given under the BISP safety net programme (Rs. 4,500 as compared to Rs. 1566).

These initiatives have culminated within PPAF in the articulation of a clear poverty graduation approach that supports the movement of households from the lowest poverty bands upwards, with asset/cash transfers as a core activity that has been proven to improve income and consumption. As PPAF moves forward with this approach, one of the key areas to track will be how sustainably households move up the ladder, and what are the constraints that may push them back down.

Building household resilience to such constraints; be they structural inequalities (such as the political economy within villages and/or the lack of quality public services provided to the poorest); the vagaries of markets and macro-level policies, which may undermine the creation of micro and small enterprises in rural areas; or natural disasters that could wipe out gains made in seconds; is essential. With this approach, PPAF continues its journey to identify, test and review the most effective strategies to support households to overcome poverty.

AN INSIGHT INTO POVERTY DYNAMICS

DEFINING POVERTY

Poverty is defined as deprivation, lack of material and intangible attributes, inadequate well-being and in some cases as the lack of capability to do things that are necessary to escape the condition of poverty, such as access to health, nutrition and literacy. Also associated with poverty are deficient social relations, insecurity, low self-esteem and powerlessness.

THE NEED FOR MEASURING POVERTY

With so amorphous a definition of poverty, poverty measurement serves as a baseline on which to begin the journey of development. Measurements of poverty inform us on the situation on the ground and focusses the attention on poverty and the poor.

Measuring poverty also gives a diagnostic understanding of types of geographic variations, intensity and type of poverty across a country and around the globe necessary to construct public policy reflective of this variance on the ground. Poverty measurement also helps gauge the impact of past interventions, make ex-ante estimates of poverty alleviation policies, as well as effect mid-course navigational correction.

MEASURING POVERTY OVER THE YEARS

Following strictly the food intake and cost of basic needs methods, the World Bank defines extreme poverty as living on less than US$1.25 per day, and moderate poverty as less than $2 a day by which count approximately 1.4 billion people had consumption levels below US$1.25 a day and 2.7 billion lived on less than $2 a day in 2008. With the adjusted extreme poverty line at $1.90 a day, in 2013, 10.7% of the world's population lived on less than US$1.90 a day, compared to 12.4% in 2012.

Following the capability approach, poverty arises when people lack key capabilities, and so have inadequate income or education, or poor health, or insecurity, or low self-confidence, or a sense of powerlessness, or the absence of rights such as freedom of speech. The Oxford Poverty Human Development Initiative (OPHDI) has calculated, the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), based on these deprivations. The MPI is an international measure of acute poverty covering over 100 developing countries. It complements traditional income-based poverty measures by capturing the deprivations that each person faces at the same time with respect to education, health and living standards based on the Alkire-Foster methodology developed by OPHI's Sabina Alkire and James Foster.

The Global MPI of June 2016 covers 102 countries, which are home to 75% of the world's population, or 5.2 billion people. Of this proportion, 30% of people (1.6 billion) are identified as multidimensionally poor. The MPI assesses poverty at the individual level. If someone is deprived in a third or more of ten (weighted) indicators (Fig 1), the global index identifies them as 'MPI poor', and the extent – or intensity – of their poverty is measured by the number of deprivations they are experiencing.

The global Multidimensional Poverty Index, based on these deprivations, complements traditional income-based poverty measures by capturing the deprivations that each person faces at the same time with respect to education, health and living standards.

MEASURING POVERTY IN PAKISTAN OVER TIME

The food energy intake measurement:

The 2001 model of poverty measurement was based on food energy intake where the Government of Pakistan defined 'Poverty line' as the level of expenditure or income, which provides basic food enough to generate 2350 calories per adult-equivalent per day. This poverty line formula placed 34.6% people as poor in 2001-02. Using this method, World Bank measurements show poverty levels were in decline since 2001, falling from 34.7% in 2000-01 to 9.3% in 2013-14.

Food energy intake and cost of basic needs measurement:

A new methodology was adopted using 2013-14 Household Income and Expenditure Survey data, where in addition to food energy intake of 2350 calories per adult-equivalent per day as minimum welfare, the cost of basic needs (CBN) method was chosen to capture non-food expenditures in the new formula. Non-food items included expenditures on education, health and mobile phones. With this addition, the number of poor in the country was calculated as 29.5%, or roughly 60 million people. By this measure, the poverty headcount ratio would have been measured at 63.3% in 2001-02, which then fell to 29.5% in 2013-14.

Multidimensional poverty index:

Following the global trends in poverty measurement and realizing the need for a sub-provincial analysis of poverty, in June 2016 the government developed a multidimensional poverty index using the Pakistan Standard of Living Measurement (PSLM) 2014-15 data. The MPI integrated the wider concept of poverty by reflecting on deprivations experienced by individuals with respect to health, education and standard of living, using 15 indicators: 3 for education, 4 for health, and 8 for living standards. The indicators of household assets and living conditions are clubbed under living standards dimension.

Applying this measure to data from PSLM survey for the 2014-15 period, the country's Multidimensional Poverty Index stands at 0.197. This indicates that poor people in Pakistan experience 19.7% of the deprivations that would be experienced if all people were deprived in all indicators. Secondly, the country's multidimensional poverty headcount ratio (population of poor in Pakistan) was estimated at 38.8% (GoP 2016).

PPAF and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) also estimated and analysed poverty by using the cross sectional PSLM Survey data 2012-13 in Geography of Poverty in Pakistan by Arif Naveed, Geof Wood and Usman Ghaus (2015). The estimation uses 27 indicators pertaining to four dimensions of wellbeing, i.e. education, health, living conditions, and assets ownership (treating 3rd and 4th dimensions as separate and including additional indicators relevant to Pakistani context). According to these estimates, poverty headcount ratio fell by 5.6% at national level from 36.9% in 2008-09 to 31.3% in 2012-13.

MPI INDICATORS

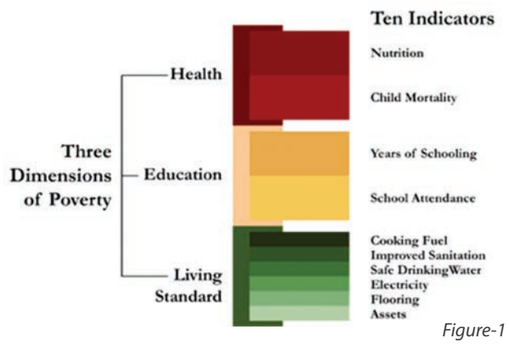

Figure-1

A national Multidimensional Poverty Index is a country-specific poverty measure tailored to each country's unique situation. Such measures generally take the dimensions of health, education and living standards as their starting point, and supplement with different dimensions measured by locally appropriate indicators.

Adapted and compiled from:
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http://www.ppaf.org.pk/doc/PPAF_SDPI_Report_%20Geography_of_Poverty_in_Pakistan.pdf
Poverty Manual, All, JH Revision of August 8, 2005; http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PGLP/Resources/PMch1.pdf;
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PGLP/Resources/povertymanual_ch3.pdf
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy;
https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/capability-approach/

RURAL CONNECTIVITY: KEY TO REDUCING POVERTY & INEQUITY

According to data from The Economist, nearly one billion people have been lifted out of chronic poverty over the last two decades. This in itself is positive but in the same period, the levels of wealth disparity have risen alarmingly as the poorest 20 percent of the world's population uses barely 1.3 percent of global resources in contrast to the richest 20% consuming an approximated 86 percent of the world's resources. Additionally, most of the world's poor live in rural areas. Thus bringing people out of rural poverty is imperative for human dignity, for sustainable food security and for sound economics.

Rural poverty persists when rural populations are not given access to social services and social protection. Failing to improve women's access to productive resources and social services further perpetuates rural poverty. Climate change, population growth and migration are now putting acute pressure on livelihoods in rural areas where poverty is already entrenched and people have the least resilience.

Poverty is complex, something the new multidimensional poverty indices take into account. A recent publication by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Geography of Poverty in Pakistan – 2008-09 to 2012-13: Distribution, Trends and Explanations, presents the estimates and analysis of multidimensional poverty in Pakistan from 2008-09 to 2012-13 at national, provincial and district levels. By using Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) survey, and the Alkire and Foster measure of multidimensional poverty, it estimates poverty by using 27 indicators pertaining to four dimensions of wellbeing, i.e. education, health, living conditions, and assets ownership. According to this research, while the poverty headcount ratio fell by 5.6 percentage points at national level from 36.9 per cent in 2008-09 to 31.3 per cent in 2012-13, there are tremendous rural-urban disparities in the incidence of poverty. In 2012-13, rural headcount ratio was 42.3 per cent compared to urban headcount ratio of 9.1 per cent. Given an overall high rural-urban disparity in the headcount ratio, the rural and urban populations within each province experienced poverty differently.

The highest rural-urban disparity is seen in Sindh which is increasing over time. There are also stark inter-provincial differences in the incidence of poverty that persist over time. The highest poverty is found in Balochistan followed by KP and Sindh. In 2012-13, 62.6 per cent population of Balochistan, 39.3 per cent of KP, 37.5 per cent of Sindh, and 24.3 per cent of Punjab were found to be multidimensional poor. Within the provinces, districts with low population and largely rural have very high incidence of extreme poverty, whereas those with high population and urban centers have low incidence of extreme poverty.

The challenges of the rural economy are such that access to basic infrastructure, basic facilities and therefore basic opportunities are lacking. Clean, reliable water systems and supply, functional roads and transportation, electricity and gas, and communication systems are the basic infrastructure which make economic growth, development and efficiency possible. They are also critically important in providing access to health and education facilities.

Rural life in particular is defined in part by the absence of infrastructure that the urban population takes for granted - transportation, electricity, water, and communication infrastructures are limited. Low population density in the rural areas results in the per capita cost of infrastructural development being prohibitive. Unfortunately the costs of not developing the rural landscape and economy are now appalling. Pakistan allocates seven times more funds to health than it does to water and sanitation, while diseases linked to open defecation and inadequate sanitation facilities cause one death every five minutes, mostly that of children.

When people are excluded within a society, when they are not well educated and when they have a higher incidence of illness, there are negative consequences for society. We all pay the price for poverty. The increased cost on the health system, the justice system and other systems that provide support to those living in poverty has an impact on the entire economy.

Access to infrastructure has a strong positive association with rural economic development and reduces the incidence of poverty. Improved roads create opportunities for economic growth and poverty reduction through a range of mechanisms. Roads reduce transportation costs and the costs of consumption and production of goods and services. With easier access to markets and technology, improved roads expand farm and non-farm production through increased availability of relevant inputs and lower input costs. At the household level, road development contributes to higher productivity and demand for labour, and improved education and health, including those for women and girls. Similarly, there is enough evidence to show that the benefits of educating girls are immense. Ensuring that girls and women are active participants in this development process can create the socio-economic transformation required for this region.

Electrification affects access to information and awareness levels. With electricity, communities are able to communicate with ease creating opportunities for economic and social activities. These in turn generate the space for entrepreneurship. Improvements in transportation and communications link rural areas with the rest of the country, where physical distances ensured that the rural economy would be largely agrarian and stultified. As rural areas become more accessible the quality of services provided to them also improves. The social barriers that kept rural human capital underdeveloped – no access to education or no access to quality education and poor health facilities – give way to more

> **"RURAL CONNECTIVITY THUS, IS A KEY COMPONENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AS IT CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL PEOPLE BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO BASIC AMENITIES"**

equitable development. Finally, the tendency for educated workers to migrate to urban areas which drains rural communities of their best workers and most capable leadership is mitigated. A better educated rural population is the best hope for long-term development. Rural connectivity is then critically important for equitable development. As large infrastructure projects are initiated for economic growth, it is necessary to incorporate a component of development into the project design whether this is a government initiative or a private sector one.

A large section of the country's rural population, particularly along the western route of CPEC, is still isolated from the mainstream, and deprived of any benefits of economic growth. Inadequate road connectivity is one of the main reasons stopping growth in rural areas but the linkages of the villages to the main CPEC route are crucial. Rural connectivity thus, is a key component of rural development as it contributes significantly in the socio-economic development of rural people by providing access to basic amenities.

INNOVATION IN TEACHING

Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MPCL) and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund partnered for the "School Improvement Programme" in Quetta and Harnai districts of Balochistan in May 2016. Through this partnership, both the parties formed an alliance to embark on interventions such as education, infrastructure, renewable energy and social sector services as identified by local stakeholders. This project is being funded through MPCL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budget.

Balochistan has the lowest literacy in Pakistan primarily due to unavailability of proper school buildings and sufficient teaching staff. In order to address the issue PPAF acquired services of Tele Taleem - an online interactive service platform that connects teachers to students virtually transporting them to anywhere anytime.

This technology based solution has opened new learning avenues for both teachers and the students of Government Girls High School, Harnai. Students of classes 9th and 10th are receiving online tutoring for Science, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English, for this purpose two Remote Classrooms (RCRs) equipped with digital infrastructure required to transform a typical classroom into a digital classroom have been set up at Harnai School. The setup is also enabling master trainers connect with the specialist teachers in Islamabad.

The classrooms are being used for conducting structured training of teachers in early grade foundation skills of basic literacy and numeracy targeting grades K-3, and primary grade subjects like English, Mathematics and Science (for grades 4 and 5). The same classrooms are being utilized for delivering direct teaching support to higher grades like IX, X in subjects like Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology initially. The direct teaching support is available on daily basis (according to agreed schedule and set of subjects to be covered). While using the same infrastructure, teachers' training is being conducted twice a month for each cohort of teachers (10 days session). Student and teacher assessment of the programme is also being done on regular basis through ICT based tools.

PPAF's initiative to use ICT for providing quality education to children residing in far-flung is positively affecting the acquisition of literacy skills in students and enhancing capacities of teaching staff. The feedback received from the teachers and students has shown that students are becoming adept in using new technology and completing their home tasks on time. They ask questions and share their lesson related problems online using a mic. Content knowledge and pedagogical skills of the teachers have also improved significantly.

Report Review

Geography of Poverty in Pakistan

Asha Gul, PhD Economics Candidate,
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As Pakistan prepares to embrace the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, the recently launched report 'Geography of Poverty' provides great insight into the extent to which poverty was alleviated under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the critical challenges that need to be addressed to achieve the SDGs. Resulting from the collaboration between the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), this report highlights the rural-urban, inter-provincial and intra-provincial (district level) inequalities in poverty levels. An overview of this geographical distribution of poverty and inequality is critical for better targeting of regions for relevant policies being implemented both by the national and provincial governments as well as PPAF.

There has always been much debate about the actual poverty levels in Pakistan and how they have changed over time. This has largely been due to the lack of reliable poverty statistics which has consequently jeopardized the effectiveness of poverty-targeted efforts. This report makes a significant contribution in this regard by providing credible evidence on poverty estimates using a nationally representative Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) survey for 2008-09 and 2012-13. Furthermore, the report not only complements the official poverty estimates but extends the analysis in several important ways.

Firstly, it goes beyond the basic, yet disputed, poverty line measure to calculate four different measures of poverty – the headcount ratio, extreme poverty, intensity of poverty and the index of multidimensional poverty which incorporates 27 indicators pertaining to four dimensions of wellbeing i.e. education, health, living conditions and asset ownership. This provides a more comprehensive picture of the poverty landscape of Pakistan with greater internal validity of the estimated statistics.

Moreover, it exploits the geographical disaggregation provided by the data set to extend the spatial analysis of poverty from the national and provincial level to the district level. This is particularly relevant given that poverty reduction efforts are an important focus of provincial governments and not just the national government. Given the skewed poverty distribution not just across provinces but also across districts within each province, the district level analysis of poverty is critical to generate a deeper understanding of poverty dynamics and designing of relevant policies.

Furthermore, the report provides a ranking of districts based on the poverty measures and classifies districts into five district zones of poverty – Extreme Poverty Zone 1, Extreme Poverty Zone 2, High Poverty Zone 1, High Poverty Zone 2 and Low Poverty Zone. This classification can greatly facilitate relevant policy makers which includes provincial governments and PPAF in prioritizing resources and designing specific regional policies which can ensure a better pro-poor distribution of public resources at all levels.

Multidimensional Poverty in Pakistan 2015*

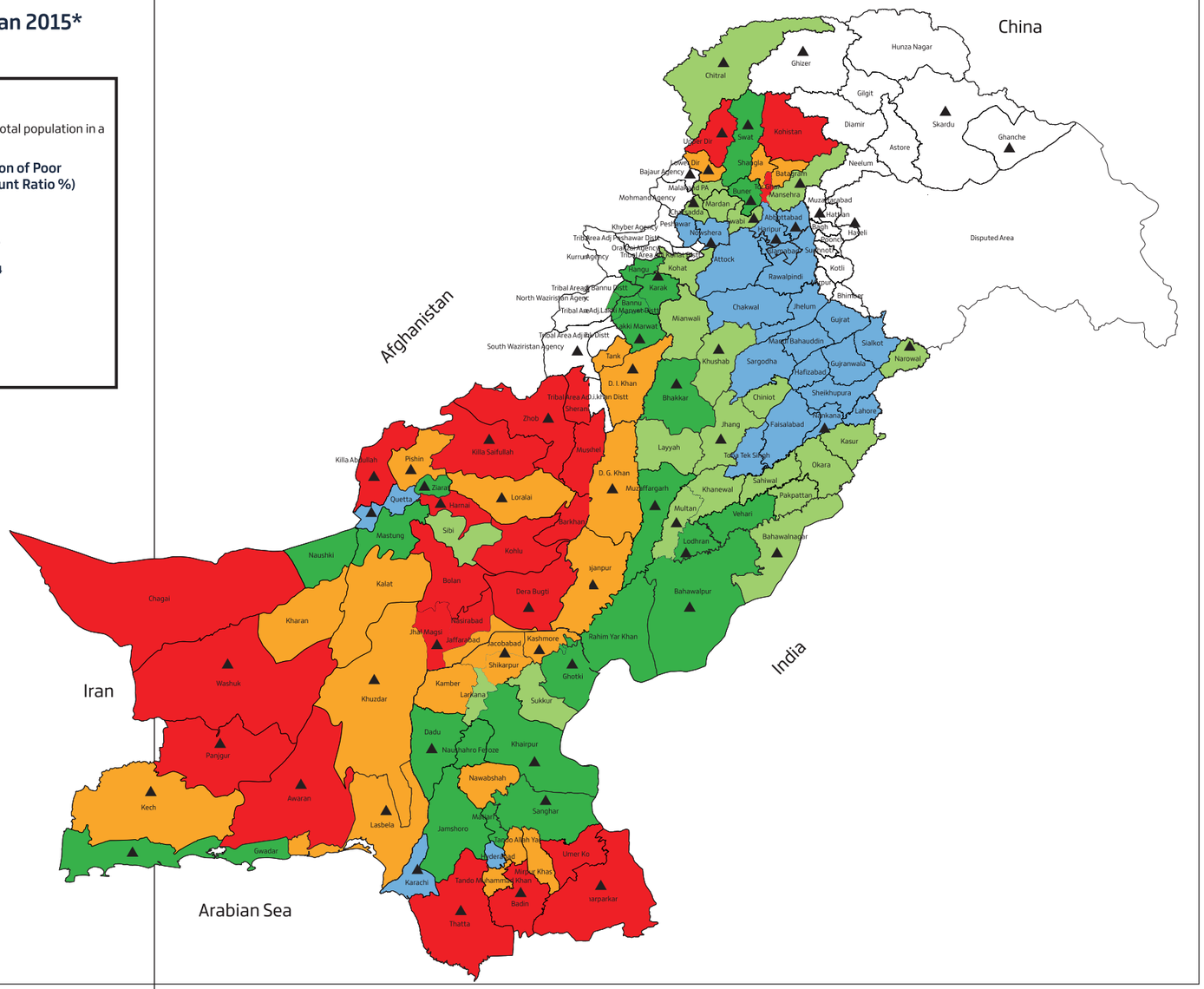
Legend

1. PPAF Footprint ▲
2. Poverty zones reflect the proportion of poor to the total population in a district. Ranking is from highest to lowest.

Poverty Zones	Proportion of Poor (Headcount Ratio %)
Extreme Poverty Zone - 1	72 to 96.4
Extreme Poverty Zone - 2	49.5 to 71.9
High Poverty Zone - 1	38.6 to 49.4
High Poverty Zone - 2	20 to 38.5
Low Poverty Zone	0 to 19.9

3. Data not available □

*Source: PSLM 2012 - 13



The key findings of the report include a decline in poverty headcount ratio by 5.6 percentage points from 36.9 percent in 2008-09 to 31.3 percent in 2012-13. There are also stark inter-provincial differences in the incidence of poverty that persist over time, with the highest poverty levels prevailing in Balochistan followed by KP and Sindh. The district level analysis further highlights the geographic concentration of poverty, with 23 out of the 56 districts in the bottom two quintiles being from Balochistan, 11 from Sindh, eight from KP, and two from Punjab. The intra-provincial inequalities are highlighted from the fact that in Balochistan, districts in north-east and south-west have the highest incidence of poverty while in KP, poverty is highly concentrated in several districts in north and south of the province. Similarly, in Punjab, poverty is high in the districts in the south while in Sindh, southern districts have the highest headcount ratio.

The report also attempts to provide potential explanations for the geographical distribution of poverty across the country. However, these need to be understood with caution as they do not imply causal relationships. This points though, to the need for more academic research in this area to identify which factors better explain poverty changes in particular regions and which policies are likely to work better in some regions and not others as the findings clearly highlight that poverty and inequality is likely to be a regional phenomenon in Pakistan.

Concludingly, this report is yet another evidence of PPAF's commitment to develop and implement policies and priorities based on reliable knowledge and ground realities. These efforts are instrumental in bridging the gap between policy and academia in the vast field of development and poverty alleviation. This is not only likely to help PPAF and its partner organisations in targeting their policy focus but also provide relevant information for the national and provincial governments to better harness their public resources to help Pakistan achieve the SDGs particularly the issue of alleviating poverty and reducing inequality.

PPAF UPDATES

DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROPOWER & RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT (HRE)

PPAF has completed eight solar PV (Photovoltaic) clusters in Districts Swabi, Karak, and Lakki Marwat with the total installed capacity of 50kW under the first phase of the KfW funded Development of Hydropower and Renewable Energy (HRE) Project. The other 88 are in progress and will be completed by June 2017. In addition, five Micro/Mini Hydropower Projects (MHPs) are to be set up in Buner, Chitral and Upper Dir. The one with the capacity of 36 kW at village Bangeria Khuwar, District Buner is near completion and will be inaugurated shortly. The other four MHPs are expected to be completed later this year.

PPAF won the UK's prestigious Energy Institute (EI) Award 2016 under the Community Initiative category. The EI Award celebrates teams and individuals across the global energy sectors that have demonstrated the uttermost excellence through their work. PPAF's project was selected from amongst 140 entries submitted by 23 countries across the globe. The

award winning initiative comprises 55 micro hydropower plants that PPAF completed in the Northern Areas. The initiative, besides generating clean energy is also providing economic opportunities for nearly 12,000 households through enterprise development.

Livelihood Support and Promotion of Small Community Infrastructure Programme (LACIP)

PPAF and KfW have signed an MoU for implementation of Phase II of Livelihood Support and Promotion of Small Community Infrastructure Programme (LACIP). The 3 year project with a financial outlay of €10 million will be implemented in districts Shangla, Buner and Lakki Marwat of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Under LACIP Phase-I, as of December 2016, PPAF has completed 1,964 community infrastructure schemes. Productive assets have been provided to 7,838 individuals while 4,565 individuals were trained in vocational and technical skills. To provide access to improved health and education facilities, 152 schools and 04 BHUs have been upgraded. 26 Disaster mitigation structures have been constructed in disaster prone areas of targeted UCs and 9,423 community members(including men, women and children) have been trained in community based disaster risk management to build their resilience against natural disasters.

PROGRAMME FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (PPR)

The Programme for Poverty Reduction ensures creation of sustainable conditions of social and economic development. To achieve this objective 3,825 community organizations with 43% women participation have been formed to initiate community driven development.

Their livelihoods are being supported through provisioning of productive assets in livestock, small businesses, fishing, agriculture and kitchen gardening. In this context assets have been provided to 4,605 individuals (48%) belonging to ultra-poor and vulnerable households. More than 4,500 individuals (31% women) have received trainings in educational related themes including development of school development plans, awareness on Article 25A of the constitution of Pakistan, innovative teaching approaches and running schools as a social enterprise.

Moreover, around 800 community resource persons in health have been trained around disease prevention and health seeking behaviour, nutrition and maternal and child heatlh. As many as 496 infrastructure schemes have been completed; these include clean drinking water schemes, link roads, flood protection works, irrigation and renewable energy projects. These initiatives are improving communities' particularly women's access to drinking water and improved sanitation.

PRIME MINISTER INTEREST FREE LOAN SCHEME (PMIFL)

The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund through its partner organizations has successfully reached out to more than a quarter of a million borrowers under the Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan Scheme. A total of 6,192.28 million rupees has already been disbursed to 276,019 borrowers across Pakistan.

PPAF held a colourful ceremony to mark success of the Scheme. 20 borrowers from across Pakistan were presented with shields and cash awards to acknowledge their exceptional utilization of the loan facility for setting up their own enterprises. PPAF has also published a booklet titled “A Journey of Self-Reliance” to highlight stories of the winners.

SOUTH ASIA PROCUREMENT INNOVATION AWARD FOR PPAF

The South Asia Regional Public Procurement Network (SAPPN) declared the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund winner of the South Asia Procurement Innovation Awards 2016-17 for its community driven inclusive procurement processes. PPAF has developed a Community Driven Development (CDD) procurement manual to introduce a participatory, efficient, cost effective and transparent procurement mechanism at the grassroots. Under its innovative CDD model PPAF through its partner organizations identifies and trains community resource persons from its network of local support organizations on financial management, record keeping, community procurement and asset management to take down the guidelines to all tiers of community institutions. PPAF has used this local human capital to build capacities of community institutions. A series of animations has also been produced which captures the complete community driven procurement process featuring the role of community resource person, making union council development plans, financial management, procurement of assets and capital goods, documentation and monitoring. Booklets on these animations have been developed as ready reference for better understanding of the entire process. Under the PPAF CDD model women are also made part of the community procurement process, they are part of the procurement committees responsible for purchasing assets and other material for projects and initiatives impacting their socio-economic status.

PPAF FACT FILE

*Cumulative March 2017 (Figures rounded off)

Presence in 130 districts through 130 Partner Organizations across the country

A grassroots network of 132,000 Community Organizations and 440,000 Credit/ Common Interest Groups

8.4 million microcredit loans with 60% loans to women and 80% financing extended to rural areas

Financing deployed in 100,000 villages/rural and urban settlements

18,000 skill development and managerial training events for 1,123,000 individuals (49% women)

Productive assets transferred to 113,000 ultra and vulnerable poor (46% women) in 56 poorest districts across the country

38,000 health, education, water and infrastructure projects completed

283,000 interest free loans provided under Prime Minister’s Interest Free Loan Scheme (62% women beneficiaries)

Facilitated 1.8 million households affected by natural disasters under relief and early recovery projects and managed reconstruction of 122,000 seismically-safe houses affected by 2005

EMPOWERED COMMUNITY MEMBER GETS LADIES FUND AWARD

Gul Nazar is a young, inspiring girl from the Kalash Valley in Chitral. Her commendable contribution towards motivating women in Kalasha Valley under Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund's Programme for Poverty Reduction has won her the Dawood Global Foundation Ladies Fund's Idol Award 2017. The award was presented by Mr. Muhammad Zubair, governor of Sindh.

Gul Nazar has conducted a series of household sessions with Kalasha women around disease prevention, nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene and mother and child health. Her contribution has resulted in reducing vulnerability of the communities especially women and children against various diseases. “I will request the government to provide more opportunities for higher education to girls from Northern Areas” said Gul Nazar while expressing her passion for education after receiving the award.