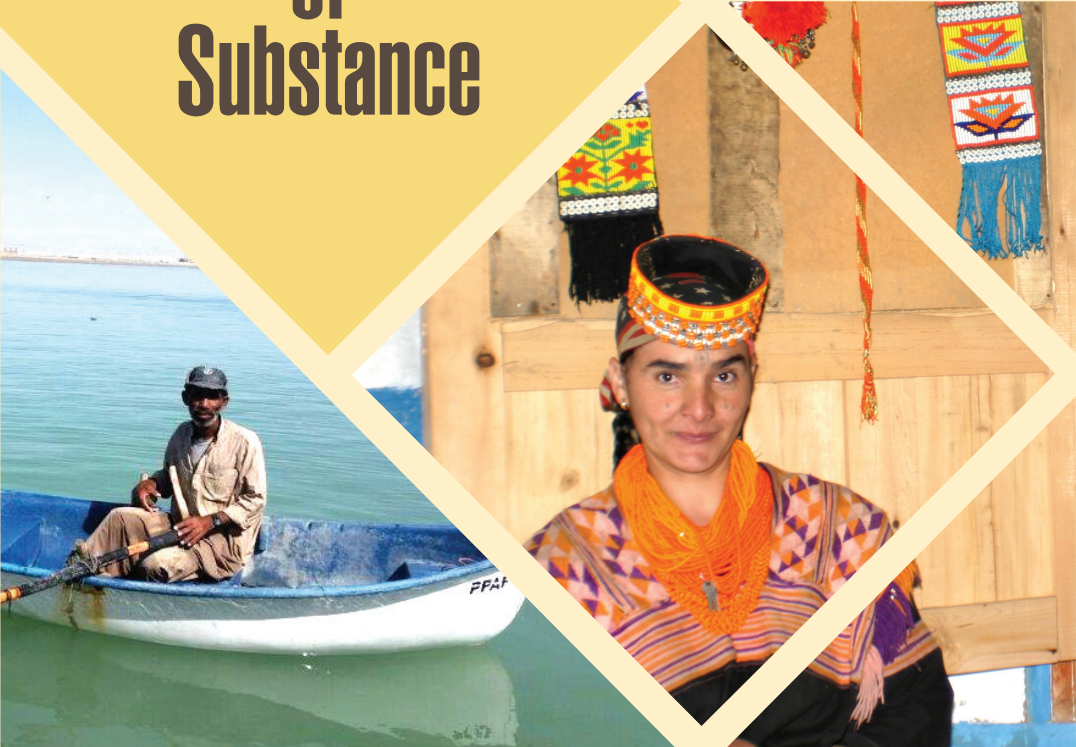




AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO



Stories of Substance



Case Studies
Programme for Poverty Reduction
Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund





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Case Studies

Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR)

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF)



Introduction:

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) is the lead implementing agency of 'Programme for Poverty Reduction through Rural Development in Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Federally Administrated Tribal Areas and Neighbouring Districts', in short referred as 'Programme for Poverty Reduction/PPR'. The programme is being implemented through PPAF's Partner Organizations (PO)s [1]. The initial three years duration of PPR was later extended to around seven years (starting from September 2013). The PPR, financed by the Government of Italy with a soft-loan of Euro 40 million through the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (DGCS/MAECI) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), aims at contributing in poverty reduction in 38 Union Councils of 14 districts of Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and ex-Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) through 17 POs.

The Programme Goal:

Population poverty reduction through the creation of sustainable conditions of social and economic development, Including income and production capacity increase

Expected Outputs

- Social structure and community organizations strengthened, with enhanced empowerment of the local communities as well as the capacity of relevant institutions, other organizations and markets
- Effective social safety net established in favor of the populations especially the; poorest groups, women, children, elderly and disabled
- Local productive infrastructures (water infrastructures, civil and energetic works, access to markets, wells, roads, pipelines, power grids etc.) built and functioning
- Access of local population to the basic social and health services, including education

PPR follows an integrated approach where following four programme components contribute towards aforesaid expected outputs:

1. Social mobilisation
2. Livelihood enhancement and protection
3. Construction and improvement of small-scale community- infrastructure
4. Establishment of basic health and education services

1 Partner Organizations are not-for-profit local organizations that are working in the field and have been selected for the programme through a third party robust competitive process.



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01

Agricultural value chain in Swat achieving a breakthrough



A significant improvement in yield and productivity of farmers has been observed particularly in villages Kabal and Sirsinai of Union Council Bar Abakhel, District Swat by linking availability of irrigation water with capacity building of farmers on integrated crop and pest management and developing strong linkages with agriculture extension workers of agriculture department. An estimated 18% increase in yield and productivity has been observed through the creation of these synergies. Furthermore, the bargaining power of small farmers has been increased, and they are in a position to negotiate the prices as they are now directly linked with the market through Common Interest Groups (CIGs) of farmers constituted under Livelihood Enhancement and Protection component. Due to formation of Common Interest Groups in the area, the

monopolistic competition of middlemen market has shifted towards perfect competition and the role of small producers in setting up of the prices of their produce has been enhanced.

The Challenge

Union Council Bar Abakhel is situated in District Swat with a population of about 3,977 households. The area primarily comprises of agricultural land producing major vegetables, cereal crops and fruit orchards. Although, the main source of livelihood is farming, the farmers are still not aware of modern farming techniques. The women of the area contribute in agriculture production and work in the fields to help their male family members in sowing, weeding, harvesting and storage of the agriculture produce. Before the launch of PPAF's



Community resource person imparting training to local farmers on modern agriculture techniques at District Swat



The Community resource persons (CRPs) are attending a session on Integrated Crop Management (ICM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training at Swat.

Programme for Poverty Reduction, the per acre production in the area has been very low earlier, as the farmers lacked updated knowledge around organic farming techniques, marketing and proper irrigation system had a limited awareness on integrated crop and pest management. The farmers were used to chemical fertilizers and sprays to increase productivity and to control insect attacks which badly affected the natural environment and land fertility.

The Initiative

LASOONA - Society for Human and Natural Resource Development in partnership and financial support of PPAF under the Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction conducted trainings of Community

Resource Persons (CRPs) on Integrated Crop Management (ICM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and indigenous knowledge and modern techniques of farming. These trainings were conducted in collaboration with government's agriculture extension department. In this connection, 20 CRPs (including 10 women) were trained. Upon the completion of these trainings, detailed action plans of CRPs were developed to further disseminate these learnings to the wider communities of the area. As a result, 1,600 local farmers (including 800 women) have been trained space. The trained women CRPs played a pivotal role in awareness raising and knowledge transformation among women farmers regarding ICM and IPM as majority of the women are engaged in farming with their male household members. As kitchen gardening is the sole

responsibility of women, they women took keen interest in ICM and IPM trainings.

When the local communities developed their Union Council Development (UCDP) Plan, they identified availability of irrigation water as their top most need. To address this, 8 irrigation channels were constructed under PPR with total cost of PKR 7,505,746 (Euro 57,736) with the community share of PKR1,125,682 (Euro 8,659) Agriculture Extension Department provided fruit fly traps to all 20 CRPs to introduce their usage in the area for crop protection. The demonstration of fruit fly traps in trainings has resulted in minimising the attack of fruit fly on vegetables and fruits. Similarly, two common interest groups of farmers (peach and tomato growers) formed under the project in the said villages are experiencing enhanced incomes through bulk buying, selling and price setting in market.

The Result

The capacity building initiative has resulted in increased awareness of farmers on use of chemical fertilizers. As a result, farmers are turning to organic farming, indigenous agricultural methods and biological control of insects and pests etc. Likewise, the burden of expenses to purchase pesticides and chemical fertilizers has been reduced. The saved money is now being utilised by farmers on consuming quality food and providing education to their children. With the change in practices, the population of other living beings, especially bees have increased in the area that ultimately help in pollination and increased honey production, positively affecting income of farmers. In addition, the government extension department has access to a pool of trained CRPs and utilise their services at the local level. The Common



The women farmers are having imparted training on the kitchen gardening at Sawat.



The members of the Common Interest Group (CIG) are attending a training session

Interest Groups established under the programme, enjoy perfect competition in the market with the middlemen, and thus, small farmers have become more influential in setting up prices of their produce.

The irrigation channels have increased access of more than 3,000 households to water. The farmers have now changed the conventional cropping pattern and now they are growing onions, tomatoes, other vegetables, wheat, maize, and peaches etc. As well the irrigation water is now available throughout the year and the conflicts around water have been decreased by 20%. Similarly, the availability of irrigation water to tail users has gone up by 15%. Easy and timely access to irrigation water has created a new way of income generation through the reduction in water loss of

about 42%. Crops yield and productivity has increased up to 18%. Around 30% new land has been brought under cultivation and labour maintenance has been decreased up to 40%. This increase in farm produce has led to the two third increase in average monthly income of farmers.

These integrated initiatives to develop local agriculture value chain have paved the way for socio-economic development of farmers with increased productivity and income of farmer communities of villages Kabal and Sirsinaï.

02

Ghulam Nabi Goth – Story of strength, cooperation and assistance



Between the long patch of dry barren terrain of Union Council Sakran, District Lasbela, Balochistan, lies in an alluvial area called Goth Ghulam Nabi. This village has set an example of modernity and rural development. The communities in Ghulam Nabi Goth experienced a complete transformation in their lives as a result of the efforts made by BRAC, Pakistan under PPR. The support was provided in terms of social mobilisation, livelihood enhancement and protection, community physical infrastructure, education, health and nutrition etc.

roads and electricity, people were living an isolated and disadvantaged life. With 30 households in the Goth, the total population of the village is around 130 people. Due to lack of access to legal structures and prevalent illiteracy, poor villagers were unaware of their basic rights and needs.

The Challenge

More than 20 kilometers away from Hub city, residents of Ghulam Nabi Goth were deprived of the basic necessities of life. With rampant poverty and no access to water, health and hygiene, education,

The Initiative

When BRAC Pakistan started PPR implementation in the village in 2009, the local community started to get empowered through formation of a mix Community Organisation comprising 26 men and 18 women members. BRAC Pakistan formed their Community Organisation (CO), provided them awareness on strengths and benefits of a CO and role of women in local development. Members of CO learnt



The members of a village organisation (VO) are attending the awareness training session at Ghulam Nabi Goth District Lasbela.



Solar energy scheme provided to Ghulam Nabi Goth Union Council Sakran at District Lasbela

about the importance of regular meetings and savings. To further build their capacity to run Community Organisation (CO) more efficiently to play a positive role in solving problems of the area and increase women's participation, members were selected and provided Community Management Skills Training (CMST). The CO was then linked to a village organisation and local support organisation in the area. Members of the CO were mobilised to identify their basic needs, BRAC Pakistan built the capacity of CO to develop village development plan and improve governance, record keeping and linkages ensuring the overall sustainability.

Based upon the needs identified under the Union Council Development Plans, PPAF provided support for

strengthening livelihood opportunities in the community. To give an economic uplift to ultra-poor households of the village productive assets were transferred to 11 poor households including 9 women, and 2 men. Each asset distributed was worth PKR 50,000 (Euro 384). The asset recipients were identified by the Community Organisation according to their poverty scorecard ranking. Livelihood support was extended through livestock, rickshaw and small enterprise to community members belonging to ultra and vulnerable poor households. Similarly, 18 villagers including 16 women have been trained on agriculture and livestock management and enterprise development for effective use of assets.

Two local Community Resource Persons

(CRPs) namely Ameer Baksh and Fozia, were trained on health and hygiene, nutrition. Realising the need for lighting in the village, the community passed a resolution for solar lights in the village. Responding to the need, BRAC Pakistan provided the solar lights which benefit all households of the village. To make it happen, the community agreed to contribute 15% share to the cost of lighting.

The Result

The residents of Ghulam Nabi Goth are a reflection of determination, togetherness and cooperation. Due to regular training and counselling by BRAC Pakistan's staff, people of Ghulam Nabi Goth are aware of their rights and needs. They reach out to relevant governmental authorities to resolve their issues. The CO

holds regular meetings and each member contributes PKR 20 (Euro 0.2) a month for savings. These savings are used for internal lending and funding of community projects. With the efforts of CRPs, community has been able to realise the importance of cleanliness. Regular awareness sessions on health, hygiene, WASH and MNCH are also conducted for the residents. CO members conduct regular cleanliness campaigns in the village and make sure that houses, streets and fields are clean. This awareness about health and hygiene has resulted in lowering open defecation practice in the village, which resultantly decreased the overall diseases in the village.

A community school equipped with teaching aids, books and other learning materials has also been established at village, accomodating more than 45



Goats are being handed over to deserving families as asset transfer under LEP by BRAC Pakistan to resident of Ghulam Nabi Goth, District Lasbela.

students with a high retention rate. Eleven people have received asset. This assistance has helped them improving their living conditions through increase

in income. This cooperation between local community, PPAF and BRAC Pakistan has led to a new beginning for the people of Ghulam Nabi Goth.



Students at PPR supported community school in Village Ghulam Nabi Goth at District Lasbela

03

**Developing competitive
advantages for 122 ultra poor
households in fisheries
value chain**



Fisheries is a major area where majority of the local population is involved at various stages of value chain. This refers to the activities and services ranging from input supply to production (capture fish and aquaculture farming), processing, storage, and transfer from sea to market (transportation) wholesale and finally, retail. Under this developed fisheries eco-system, 122 ultra-poor HHs (identified by a survey and validated by the communities) were earning their bread and butter through fisheries sector. However, their role was limited to merely being the service provider (labourer) for the key actors (owners of big boats). They were earning as low as PKR 300 (Euro 2.30) a day along with some sea food for their home consumption in return of their services.

Flow of fisheries products depends on many factors, ranging from consumer preferences in different geographical locations, the capacity and competitiveness of a given fisheries area to catch or produce, handle, process, distribute and market its products etc. The market path that each fish will take in turn determines the added value generated by that fish and who retains the greatest proportion of this value.

The Challenge

Catching fish from sea is both labour and capital intensive. The cost of boat, fishing net and ice box is too high and is not affordable for poor people. Keeping in view the huge capital needs, small



A fisherman in the sea at District Gawadar



Fishermen in the sea at District Gawadar

fishermen rely on working with investors (owner of the boats) while using their boats on daily rental or commission basis. Further, they have less information about the market, supply chain, price of different species and their real value. In term of return and pricing mechanism, these 122 fishermen were also relying on middle man and boat owners that are connected with the market and manage the selling of fish and its price in the market. The monopolistic market structure of middlemen was badly affecting small fishermen and they were missing on major profit due to lack of storage facility, pressures of boat owners and burden of credit.

The Initiative

NRSP initially validated the Poverty scorecard of the deserving fishermen with the help of local communities. The field teams also facilitated the fishermen in development of the Livelihood Investment Plans (LIPs) of these individuals. During the development of their Livelihood Investment Plans, it was observed that these fishermen spend most of their time in the sea and return with a smaller catch and are also forced to accept middleman driven prices for selling of fish. The maximum return of their efforts and time goes to boat owner and middlemen. During

brainstorming with them, it was concluded that the value can be added in their efforts and hard work by providing them boats as productive assets which also correlates to their human capital (skills). Based on this, they also identified the needs of boats for themselves to work independently and gain competitiveness against the monopolistic market factors (including boat owners, middlemen and money lenders).

Under PPR, 122 people including 1 Person With Disability (PWD) from household ranging poverty score (0-18) were provided with productive assets (small boats and nets) along with basic entrepreneurial skills trainings. Further, 3 Common Interest Groups (CIGs) of these beneficiaries were formed to increase their collective bargaining power for

bulk purchase of inputs (ice, net repairing) and bulk selling of fish produce in the market. To create enabling environment for them, 30 youth of the same union council were trained on boat and net repairing in order to provide services to the local fishermen. NRSP has also linked these 122 HHs with Gwadar Lasbela Livelihood Projects (GLLSP) and has provided them life jackets and ice boxes to reduce associated vulnerabilities. Recently, a jetty has also been constructed in Union Council Surbandar by Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) which makes business environment friendlier to them. Plan for developing a market through CIG grand fund was also under discussion. Rustam Ali, one of the recipients shared, "My life has been transformed. Now I am the owner of a small fishing boat and fishing nets. I was



Rustam Ali, an asset recipient at District Gawadar, out in the sea for fishing with his own boat.

a mere labourer or someone else's employee in the past. Now, I use my own boat and net to catch fish and earn more than the past. Because of the change in my social condition, I feel protected both socially and economically.

The Result

The average monthly income of each beneficiary has been increased from PKR 12,000 to PKR 30,000 (Euro 230). The 30 youth provided with boat repairing trainings are also respectfully engaged in their work as service providers to all the boat owners. Besides increase in income, these 122 households have emerged as key market actors in

comparison to their previous status of being marginalised service providers (Labourer). Their clustering through CIGs has also improved their bargaining power and has transformed them from price-takers to price negotiators in fishery market. The set of PPR interventions have an impact the middle man market and brought them down from price makers to price negotiators. This is an example of repositioning ultra-poor in the monopolistic market by creating competitive advantage for them on cost, efficiency, bargaining power and scale. It is expected that after construction of cold store and development of small market, these CIGs of poor fishermen would emerge as full-fledged cooperatives in future.

04

**Sabawoon Model School -
A beacon for many**



The Challenge

Village Kotlai is situated in Union council Kuz Abakhel, of District Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Before PPR interventions, about 45 children including 30 girls were out of school in the village due to difficulties to access to nearest school which was about 4 km in the other village. This was one of the villages where female education had traditionally been discouraged. Girls usually stayed home and were engaged in household chores. Because of remoteness of the area and rigid norms, very few children were able to study in the other village where they had relatives, or they had transportation facility at home.

The Initiative

Under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction, the Community

Organisation Derai Khawateen Tanzeem unanimously passed a resolution to establish a community-based school in the village. Ms Begum was the unanimous choice to become the Community Resource Person and the school teacher. The community based its choice on her being one of the few women who could seek education. However, after her graduation, she was forced to get married at the age of 20 and to quit her passion to promote education in the area.

PPAF's local partner organisation - Environmental Protection Society (EPS) provided teacher training opportunity to Ms Begum along with provision of teaching kit, furniture and necessary stationery for the school operations. Responsibility of building rent was to be borne by the community. The school was established in July 2016 and she started teaching in the school. Keeping in view the starting phase of the enterprise and



The students at community school village Kotlai in Union Council Kuz Abakhel

to boost her spirit, PPR also facilitated the school in form of time being honorarium for teaching staff. Through establishment of the

The Result

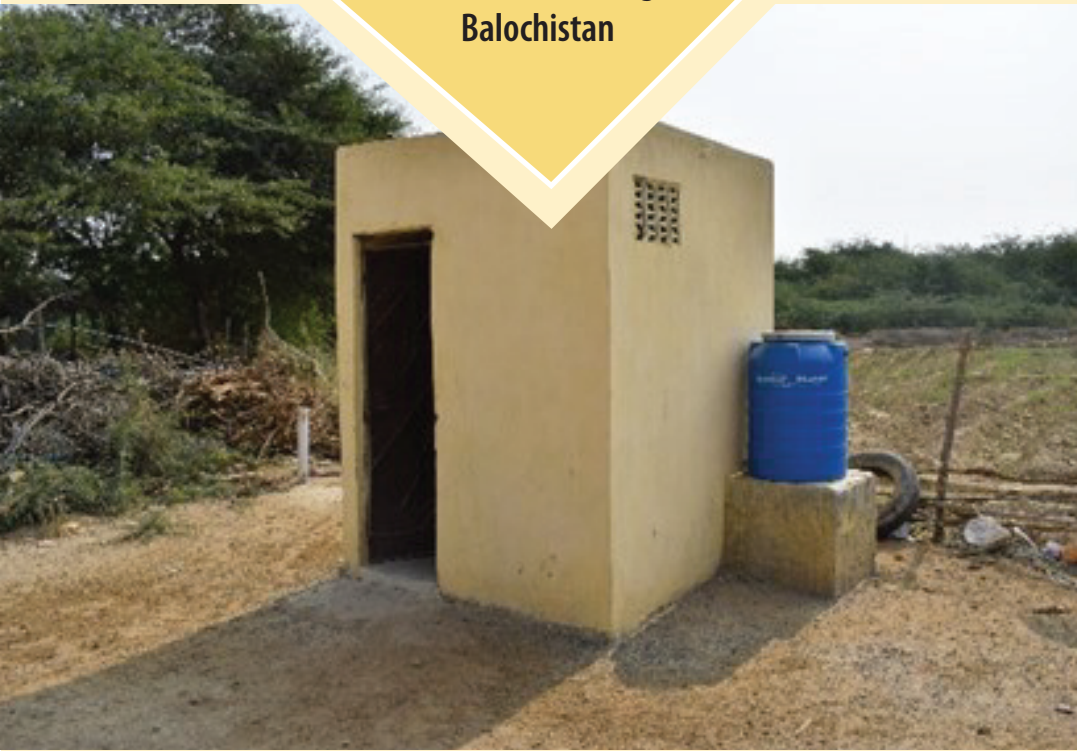
community school under PPR, 45 out of school children (including 30 girls) were enrolled in the school. Establishment of the school and enrolment of these children further motivated other residents of the village to get their children, especially girls enrolled in the school. The school has its own business plan and each student pays PKR 300/- per month. The enrolment has increased up to 50 children including 33 girls.



Sabawoon Model School the candle that burns to enlighten ways for many.

05

**Sabz Ali Goth – An open
Defecation Free Village in
Balochistan**



Village Sabz Ali of Union Council Sakran, District Lasbela has a semi-arid climate. The population of 57 households is scattered and gets the bare subsistence through marginal farming and rearing livestock. Some people have also migrated from the village in search of jobs and better living conditions.

The Challenge

Due to poverty and poor understanding of health hazards of open defecation, the community never built latrines for defecation. This resulted in common diseases, especially in children, unhygienic living practices, a polluted environment and increased rate of snake bite incidents during open defecation. It was a challenge as the community did not perceive it as a threat to their living and health conditions.

The Initiative

BRAC assessed the challenging situation related to open defecation in the village. Under the Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction, focused intervention to address the open defecation practices of the communities was initiated. However, considering the generations old practice, it was difficult for the field teams to motivate the local communities to let go of this practice. Hence more construction of latrines in the area was not the solution. As a first step, the field teams started a vigorous campaign, through Community Resource Persons trained under the programme, about the health hazards of open defecation and poor hygiene practices related to open defecation. Four latrines were constructed for demonstration purposes and to convince the communities to construct low cost latrines. BRAC staff,



A latrine build to make Sabz Ali Goth Open Defecation Free (ODF) village

through the support of proactive and dynamic CRPs like Ahmad and Fozia, conducted weekly sessions to mobilise the communities to give up open defecation, start using latrines and wash hands after defecation. They urged the community to quit the practice of open defecation and use latrines to promote clean and healthy living with privacy and dignity. The sessions and discussions also focused on teaching children about hazards of open defecation and to adopt latrines for defecation. Through training, motivation and encouragement, the community further built 4 low cost latrines through their own resources and aimed to build more to make their village Open Defecation Free (ODF) Village.

BRAC linked the community of the village to other development stakeholders including National Rural Support Programme, another PPR partner organisation, to further complement the efforts which resulted

in getting the ODF Free status for the village.

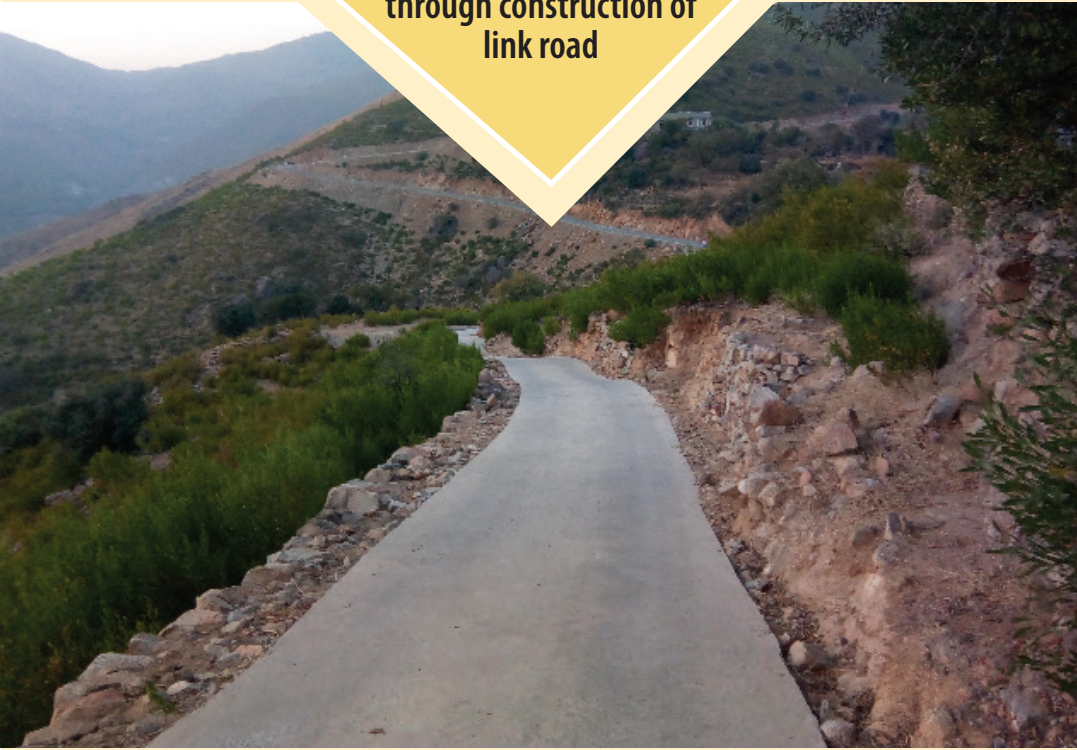
The Result

The greatest achievement of the intervention is the successful sensitization within the community about health hazards and negative social consequences of open defecation. The diseases like diarrhoea and cholera is rarely reported in the village.

According to Rehmat Bibi, a community member of Goth Sabz Ali, "Latrine is a blessing for us. We do not need to go out in rainy weather or in dark. The area is especially not safe for children and women to go out late at night. We have also become aware of the prevailing reasons behind increasing cases of diarrhoea in the area. We are thankful to the programme that helped us to stop open defecation."

06

**Improving access of the residents
of village Hisarak Payeen
through construction of
link road**



Village Hisarak Payeen is a poverty-stricken village situated at a distance of 11 kilometres from district headquarters of Lower Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Located in the mountains, the village had no proper access to the main cities because of poor infrastructure and roads.

The Challenge

Non availability of link road made it difficult for the residents in terms of market access, routine transportation, carrying heavy load and agriculture goods. The only available path leading to the main road was muddy and would become slippery during rainy season, making it difficult for locals, especially small children and women to go to school or to visit other areas. Similarly, it was difficult for the elderly people to reach the village mosque to offer prayers. Even the transport vehicles were not willing to come to the village because of such poor, conditions. In case

of medical emergencies, people of the village were use to carry their patients on carts or on their shoulders to the nearest paved road.

The Initiative

During development of Village Development Plan (VDP), local communities identified and prioritized the need of link road in village Hisarak Payeen.

Considering the need of the community, staff of SRSP held a meeting with the local community members where a resolution was unanimously passed for the construction of link road. The approved link road project was 1100 feet long. It was completed with total cost of PKR 998,000 (Euros 7,677) where PPAF share was PKR 851,000 (Euro 6,546) while that of the CO was PKR 147,000 (Euro 1,130). The community also formed an Operations and Maintenance (O & M) Committee responsible for optimal utilisation of the installation and post project sustainability.



Link road to Village Hisarak Payeen before the construction of paved road.



Link road improving access to Village Hisarak Payeen after the construction

The Result

Completion of the link road paved the way towards development for the villagers. Elderly, women and school going children showed excitement and now they feel safe in crossing the path and reaching their destination. Easy and timely access to the market has created a new way of income generation through reduction in time loss. Vehicles such as pickups, cars, tractor trolleys and mini trucks have started coming to the village. As a result, the transportation cost has been reduced by 20% as shared by representatives of SRSP. Further, the land value of the area is also said to have increased by 10% as shared by the representatives of SRSP.



Children going to school through newly constructed link road in village Hisarak Payeen.

07

Quality education through
establishment of
community school



Killi Ajobra village is situated towards South West of Union Council Kan Mehtarzai (Balochistan), at a distance of 2.5 km from Kan Mehtarzai union council. As per the representative of Balochistan Rural Development and Research Society (BRDRS), the population of village is almost 250 comprising of 45 households. The strength of the students getting benefits from the community school is 26.

The Challenge

Education and literacy ratio in Killa Saifullah District in general and of the targeted UC in particular was the worst. The literacy rate of Kan Mehtarzai as per the programme baseline was 50 percent. Further, the female literacy rate was significantly lower as compared to male literacy rates. Female literacy rates in Kan Mehtarzai was observed as 29 to 40 in contrast to male literacy rates of 66 to 70

percent. There were few government established schools in the union council but majority of those schools were not functional. There was lack of basic facilities, non-availability of the required teaching staff and lack of proper supervision and monitoring system. When PPR started its interventions in the area, the need for school was identified to be one of the prime issues in the area. There was no education facility in the village. The only school in this area was located at a distance of about six kilometres from Ajobra village and as a result, small children, especially girls, could not seek education.

The Initiative

Keeping in view the dire need of the community in Killi Ajobra, BRDRS (Balochistan Rural Development and Research Society) through support under Italian Funded Programme for



Provision of quality education through establishment of community school in village Killi Ajobra at District Killa Saifullah



Students at PPR supported community school in village Killi Ajorba at District Killa Saifullah

Poverty Reduction (PPR) established a Community School in Ajorba and assigned a female teacher for the school. Further, with the help of CRPs trained under PPR, admission and enrolment campaign was also initiated by the BRDRS staff at the village level. The campaign not only aimed at creating awareness about importance of education and to share about the school but also to encourage the parents to send their children to schools. As a result, 26 (15 girls and 11 boys) out of school children were enrolled in the school at that time. The teacher was also provided with training under PPR programme. In addition, initial support in terms of teaching kit and necessary furniture such as board, chair, table and stationery were provided to the school for starting classes. A School Management Committee (SMC) was also formed to supervise the school including enrolment, teacher attendance, parent teacher liaison and other matters.

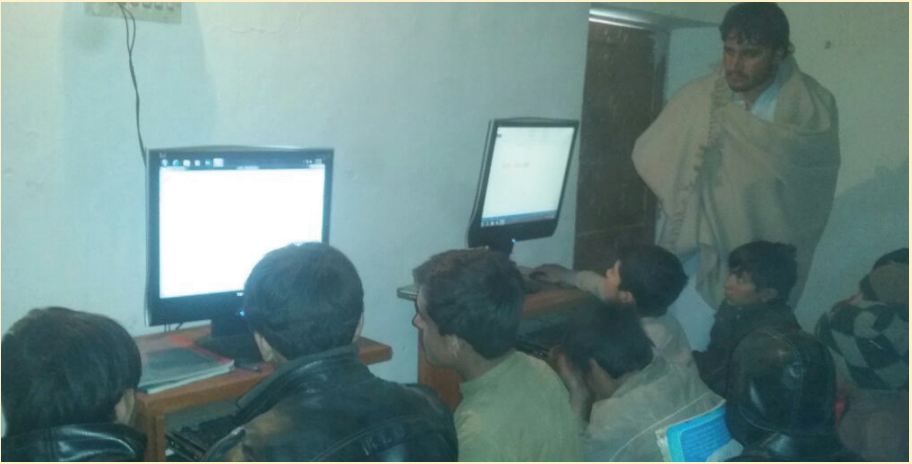
The community is grateful to the team of BRDRS and PPR programme for their efforts and assured to increase enrolment of children, especially girls in the school.

The Result

With the efforts of PPR trained education CRPs, PO staff and members of community institutions, the first ever community school was established in the village Ajorba. Initially, 26 students were enrolled in the school. As a result of rigorous awareness raising campaign, the number of students has now increased to 32 (17 boys and 15 girls). The school provides opportunities to the students of the village to access quality education services within their village. As a result, parents who were reluctant to send their daughters to schools in distant villages due to security and cultural barriers, also got motivated to

get their daughters enrolled in the school. Introducing and promoting education in the village is a reliable and fruitful investment by PPR which correlates with the general improvement

in social and economic improvement of the area. The community is willing to pay tuition fee for their children which will help towards sustainability of the school.



Quality education to students is being provided through establishment of community school

08

A step towards prosperity
and safe life



On June 15, 2017, Mr. Asmat Ullah Kakar, Secretary Health Balochistan visited the Basic Health Unit (BHU) Surbandar Gawadar to inaugurate solar system installed at BHU through the support of Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR). Deputy Commissioner Gwadar, District Health Officer Gwadar, District Support Manager, People Primary Health Care Initiative (PPHI), DPO Gwadar-NRSP, Gwadar based NRSP staff, LSO representatives and local press and media were also present at the occasion. During the ceremony, the local staff briefed the Secretary Health Balochistan about the integrated PPR programme being implemented through PPAF with the support of Italian Government. Mr. Kakar was highly impressed to see the PPR interventions in Gwadar. He appreciated the support in the area of health in strengthening the facilities available in the Basic Health Unit.

Considering the support towards a fully functional Basic Health Unit, Mr. Kakar announced to upgrade the BHU to Rural Health Centre upon the request of LSO. "I really appreciate the contributions of Italian funded PPR and PPAF in improving access to health in Gwadar", said Mr. Kakar while addressing the ceremony. Similarly, Deputy Commissioner Gwadar and District Support Manager, People Primary Health Care Initiative (PPHI) also promised to provide solar systems to 4 BHUs respectively in the district. This initiative will ensure uninterrupted power supply to the government health facilities where power breakdown spans daily for about 12-15 hours.

The Challenge

Union council Surbandar is one of the most marginalised union councils among the 13 union councils of District Gwadar. The total number of households in the area is 6,414 households, with a population of 44,898 individuals. The only available Basic Health Unit (BHU) in the area required extensive repair and renovation. Due to lack of basic facilities, particularly medicines and basic clinical equipment, the number of outdoor patients was less than (250 -300) per month. Although the only serving health facility in the area, the BHU was not fully functional due to lack of facilities and frequent power breakdown and load shedding of about 12-15 hours a day.

The Initiative

The health component under the Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) aims at enhancing the access of targeted communities to primary health care services. The aforementioned BHU of Union Council Surbandar which is being supported under PPR since January 2016, is one of the examples of support provided under the programme in this regard. During the process of development of integrated Union Council Development Plans, the local communities identified the missing needs (including repair and renovation, clinical equipment, medicines, construction of waste disposal system and solar system) and requested NRSP under PPR to address the needs and make the local BHU functional.

Responding to the needs of communities, support worth PKR 1,350,000 million (Euro 10,384) has been extended to this existing government health facility/BHU in terms of repair and renovation, clinical equipment, medicines, construction of waste disposal system and solar system etc.

Recognizing the functionality of BHU, the government approved and installed solar system to ensure continued power supply for health facility and also announced for its upgradation.

The Result

It is through PPR support that Basic Health Unit has been upgraded into Rural Health Centre (RHC). On average, approximately 782 women, 383 men and 186 children visit the facility to access health care services on monthly basis. Deputy Commissioner and District Support Manager, PPHI have also announced to replicate the health model of PPR to other BHUs, especially installation of solar system for uninterrupted power supply. Having received up-gradation letter from Secretary, the community and especially Local Support Organisation (LSO) is highly motivated to develop linkages with other government line departments for other challenges in the area.

09

**Social mobilisation- working
together towards
collective gain**



PPAF and its local Partner Organisation (LASOONA) started working in village Kabal of Union Council Barabakhel of District Swat in March 2015 under the Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction. The programme mainly focuses on community empowerment, livelihood enhancement and protection, basic education and health services and construction of physical infrastructure. Alongside these interventions, development works included women development across the village.

Owing to the traditional mindsets and conservative norms, women in the area were not allowed to take part in development initiatives. There was need to bring about a change in the local mindset and to bring women into development stream by utilisation their potential. The field staff maintained continuous engagement with the local community members and persuaded them of the importance of collective

voice. While building on the confidence of local community members, the field staff introduced the benefits of involvement of women into development and decision making. Through constant engagement and mobilisation, the local field staff remained successful in forming the first Community Organisation- Spogmai Khawteen Tanzeem. Being an active and educated woman, Ms Mahnaz was selected as the General Secretary of the organisation in recognition of her efforts towards local women mobilisation and education.

The Challenge

Due to cultural constraints and male dominant society, the formation of women community institution was very challenging. Limited awareness regarding women rights was available to the women. There was a constant struggle between the passion of these women and the harsh attitude of the society. Lack of quality education is also one of the main challenges faced by the target community. After getting primary education, there is no culture to send girls for middle and higher education. The local women were excluded from decision making and their role was confined to the house. Similarly, they were restricted to activities that are determined for them by the men in the family. Although, the local women and girls were passionate to take on development initiatives for the area, they were afraid of the consequences of going against the will of the local males.



Ms Mahnaz, General secretary of the Community Organization, updating community proceeding register of Spogmai Khawteen Tanzeem in Union Council Barabakhel District Swat



Women of Spogmai Khawteen Tanzeem doing hand embroidery in Union Council Barabakhel District Swat

The Initiative

Under social mobilisation support, the villagers organized themselves on the forum of 57 Community Organisations/COs (out of which, 25 were women COs) which later federated into 5 mix Village Organisations (VOs). As a result, 561 households were organized in the village. These Community Organisations provided a platform to the people where they could come together and plan to address the challenges at local level. The communities identified their key development issues and challenges and anticipated multi sectoral activities that would help address these challenges through Village Development Plan (VDP).

The CO exhibits record updating, saving practices, regular meetings (monthly), internal lending in the CO and inclusion of most important schemes in VDP. Total membership of the CO is 21 with total saving of PKR 4,000. (Euro 30.76) The formation of community institution has been facilitative in other PPR activities such as asset transfer, vocational skill trainings, WASH and Nutrition sessions.



Women community members discussing community issues during the CO's meeting

The Result

Spogmai Kawateen Tanzeem has become one of the best COs in the area.

10

Empowering Kalasha women
through provision of material for
development and promotion
of Kalasha Craft



Under Programme for Poverty reduction, AKRSP has been supported in Union council Ayun of District Chitral. Koldesh village has the privilege that it houses indigenous Kalasha community. Today, the village has been transformed into a model village enlightening synergies being created through strong community cohesion and PPR programmatic support. Since beginning, the tripartite partnership between PPAF, AKRSP and Kalasha community institutions formed in the village is cemented upon the basis of a collective development activity in line with indigenous people planning framework (IPPF) specifically designed to protect the originality of unique Kalasha culture.

Livelihood support was provided in the village Koldesh of Rumbure valley through provision of assets and livelihood trainings. Under LEP

intervention, Lahore Gul set up a Kalasha Cloth and Handicrafts Shop in her home in Kalasha Valley (Rumbure). Lahore Gull's enterprise is a result of livelihood grant worth PKR 44,900 (Euro 345.38) that was provided to her under PPR. Today, she is earning about PKR 7,000 (Euro 53.84) a month which contributes towards livelihood of her family along with education of her children.

The Challenge

Most of the households in the village are vulnerable and very poor. Lahore Gul, wife of Majeed Ullah also belongs to a vulnerable poor household having Poverty Score 12. Although, she was well acquainted with skill of kalasha handicrafts and dress designing, lack of resources and information about



Lahore Gull – Empowering kalasha women through provision of material for development and promotion of Kalasha Craft



A Kalasha women busy in making handicrafts

potential market was hampering her progress and earnings.

Lahore Gul got married at a very early age. Her husband is a daily wage labourer having other dependents too. Their four children further added to burden to the meagre income of her husband who was the sole bread earner of the family. All this made it difficult to manage the expenses considering increased household expenses and expectations and needs of her family in contrast to the negligible and occasional income. The monthly income of her husband was very low i.e. about PKR 4,000 (Euro 30.76) which was hardly enough to meet the family needs.

The Initiative

During March 2011, AKRSP formed Village Organisation (VO) Koldesh in her village. The primary purpose of PPR is to serve as a catalyst for mobilisation in the village and development of Kalashas by engaging community members particularly women, developing their interest in a variety of community development activities and providing them technical and financial aid to improve their access to essential services of life.

In 2011, when village organisation was formed, Husband of Lahore Gul became member of the VO. In 2016, he was elected as manager of the Village Organisation. Soon after household assessment and strong recommendation

from her VO for livelihood support under PPR, her Livelihood Investment Plan (LIP) was developed. Considering her interest and potential for profit, Lahore Gul was provided with an enterprise grant of PKR 44,900 (Euro 345.38) for her plan in January 2017. With the grant, she was provided with raw material to start a home based small 'Kalasha Cloth, Handicraft and Jewellery Shop' in her village.

Through continued guidance and technical support from PPR staff, she started increasing product line from the profits earned in early months to increase sales volume. Within a year her inventory volume increased to PKR. 110,000 (Euro 846.15). She also added items to cater to the school needs of local children as well as household items of her village community. She was lucky to have full support of her husband who not only helped her for the purchase of

merchandise from wholesale shops in Chitral but also managed the shop during her absence.

The Result

"I am happy that I utilised the PPR assistance in the best possible manner I could. I have invested my energies and efforts in this enterprise and am lucky enough to get return on it. I am not only able to earn monthly amount of PKR. 7,000 (Euro 53.84) but also able to meet the basic food, health and education related needs of my kids by supporting my husband. I am also very glad that the assets provided by PPR added value to my skills. I wish for a community-based display centre here in Rumbure valley to market my products in better ways in future", said Lahore Gull. Her statement itself is quite reflective of the success of the initiative.

11

**Irrigation canal
A tale of prosperity**



About 22 kilometres away from Hub city lies a small village of Haji Khandero in Union Council Sakran Balochistan. Residents of the village are primarily involved in agriculture and wheat and cotton are their main cash crops. Difficulties were striking them hard as prolonged dry and rainless season for last five years had left them with no option but to quit agriculture and earn living through other source. "It was a terrible time for us, we were praying for rain because our survival depends on these crops. Not only our village was facing scarcity of water but also the neighbouring areas of Village Sakran where majority of cultivated land of farmers of our village is located," said Majid, a small farmer of the village.

The Challenge

The farmers of the village were facing huge difficulties in sustaining their agriculture. The low level of water table in the area was causing shortage of water during dry season. The only source of water they could think of was tube well which was not cost effective. Burden of cost of diesel to run tube well engine was making farming a less favourable professional for the farmers in the area. Further, water seepage issue was also prevalent in the area thereby affecting the fertility of the land. Almost 50 households of the village were severely affected from this water shortage because of resulting low yield per acre of crops.



The under construction irrigation canal in Haji Khandero Goth in Sakran



Irrigation canal successfully completed and operational in Haji Khadero Goth

The Initiative

Considering the above problems, Community Organisation Chutta submitted a resolution to BRAC Pakistan for construction of irrigation canal in their village through support under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction. After visiting the area, BRAC Pakistan's engineer conducted a feasibility study and drew the conclusion that constructing of water canal in this area will help solve this acute water problem by minimizing the water losses and overall improvement in the water supply to the land. Further, the extra financial cost bared by the farmers on water supply will be cut down to half, income of the farmers will increase and further land will be used for agriculture in the area. Along the water canal, plantations of tree will bring a positive impact on the environment.

With the technical help of BRAC Pakistan and PPAF, community completed the irrigation scheme in March 2017 with total cost of PKR 1,430,143 (Euro 11,001.1) including community contribution of PKR 211,521 (Euro 1,627.08).

The field engineer of BRAC Pakistan supervised and monitored the project construction and ensured that all the work has been carried out as per the project plan and specifications. Procurement for the project was done by the project committee formed by the CO members in their general body meeting.

The CO members and water users of the canal have taken responsibility for the operation and maintenance of water course scheme. This was an environment friendly project. The project improved water availability in the area resulting in increased vegetation and plantation.

There is no negative or harmful impact of the project, requiring any mitigation measures.

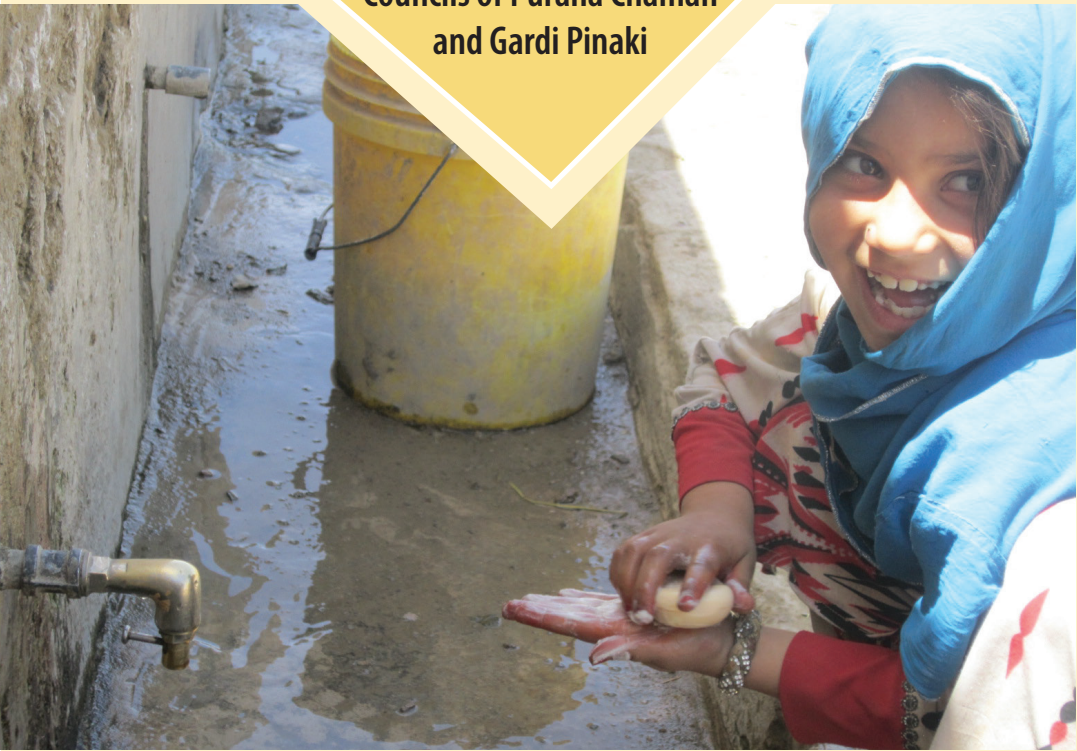
The Result

The impact of this water canal exceeded our expectations. Total area benefited from the project is over 80 acres. The land which was previously barren and was abandoned by the farmers is now under cultivation. The main crops of the

area are wheat, fodder, dates, vegetables and chikoo. The project has increased per acre yield of the crops and minimized water losses. Due to increase in income, communities are now spending money for education of their children. "The terrible time for us has passed as now, we have enough water to irrigate our field. Because of construction of canal, our livelihood has revived", said Majid, a small farmer of the village.

12

**Open Defecation Free Union
Councils of Purana Chaman
and Gardi Pinaki**



Balochistan has undergone several crises despite being one of the rich resource provinces. Balochistan's health sector is on top priority in view of its comparison with other provinces of Pakistan with IMR at 97/1000 live births, MMR 996/100,000 live births, and under five mortalities 111/1000 live births. The deficiencies of the health sector has many contributing factors such as poor education, and lack of awareness.

Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) with support of PPAF started working in the area in March 2015 under the Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR). PPR is currently being implemented in four union councils of three target districts i.e. Pishin, Killa Abdullah and Zhob. Among other outcomes, the project also aims at improving access of local communities

towards health facilities through training of CRPs on health and Hygiene seeking behaviour, awareness sessions at household level by trained CRPs, strengthening of target health facilities in terms of repair renovation, provision of equipment furniture, medicine and supplies, advocacy and awareness campaigns, District Development Forums/round table meetings and provision of material support to communities for construction of toilets to overcome ODF.

The role of line departments, especially health department has been quite appreciable. BRSP, under PPR, maintained close coordination and engagement with health department and involved it in every activity of the project implemented at community level. District Development Forum has



Low cost laterin built to discourage open defecation practice



A local boy washing his hands to ensure hygiene

remained significant in discussing the health-related challenges and issues and

The Challenge

to come up with solutions. Before the initiation of this program in UC Purana Chamana and UC Gardi Pinaki, villagers in some areas were defecating in open fields far from their houses. This was leading to various diseases in the community and environmental pollution. High levels of open defecation were also linked with high child mortality, poor nutrition leading to stunted growth in children, poverty and large disparities between rich and poor. Water borne diseases, especially diarrhea, typhoid, dysentery etc. were quite common in community. Counselling and awareness raising to

give up the practice was not an easy task especially when target population was rigid in their thoughts and was not willing to accept change in their behaviours that they had been practicing for decades.

The Initiative

Extreme poverty and open defecation are linked. Because of rigid beliefs and practices of the local communities, PPR and its local Partner Organisation BRSP struggled to educate local community on the adverse health effects of open defecation. Under open defecation free related activities, BRSP provided material support to 133 toilets in the target UC Puran Chaman and UC Gardi Pinaki in District Killa Abdullah. CRPs were trained on health and hygiene seeking behaviours who further educated

villagers in their catchment areas. Subsequently, these CRPs conducted 63 health and hygiene awareness sessions, attended by 1,666 female and 1,498 male community members. These sessions remained fruitful and had positive impact on community members in realization of importance of toilets and decided to build toilets on self-help basis as well. As a result, the marginalized community members of UC Purana Chaman and UC Gardi Pinaki have constructed 369 latrines on self-help basis at household level.

The Result

This initiative is believed to turn the fate of community as it is expected to reduce the mortality rate of children under 5, polio cases and other epidemic or water borne diseases. These sessions sensitized community members about hygiene and health indicators as well as motivated

them to take action and struggle to turn their situation. Children of these marginalized communities are observed washing hands after using toilet. This indicates the level of consciousness that the sessions have created among the target population.

The representatives from Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD) along with BRSP team visited UC Purana Chaman and UC Gardi Pinaki to observe the change. During the visit, community elders/members met to investigate whether open defecation is still practiced or not. People expressed that now the entire UC is open defecation free due to PPR and BRSP's awareness campaign. As a result, the local people themselves have constructed 369 latrines in their communities to stop open defecation. On this LRGD issued a certificate to BRSP declaring District Killa Abdullah ODF.



A young girl from local community ensuring the compliance with hygiene guide lines.



عشق، علم، عمل

پی پی اے ایف کی بنیادی اقدار اور اس کے کام کی اصل روح ہیں

The emblem denotes three words: Ishq, Ilm, Aml
meaning profound love, knowledge and action
the core values of PPAF.



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