



Journey of Courage & Resilience

Success Stories
Programme for Poverty Reduction
Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund







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Introduction:

PPAF is the lead implementing agency of “Programme for Poverty Reduction through Rural Development in Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Neighbouring Districts. In short referred to as “Programme for Poverty Reduction/PPR” through PPAF’s Partner Organisations¹. The duration of PPR is five years (starting from September 2013) with a total budget of Euro 40 million financed by the Government of Italy (Gol) through the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) and managed by Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). Initially, it was a three year programme (ending September 12, 2016) which has been extended for two more years (ending September 12, 2018). The programme is being implemented in 38 Union Councils of 14 districts in the areas of Balochistan, KP and FATA through 17 partner organizations (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 Organisations strengthened, with increased empowerment of the local communities and increased capacity of relating with central institutions, other Organisations and markets
- Effective social safety net established in favor of the populations' poorest groups, women, children, old people and disabled especially



- 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 obtained

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

- Social Mobilisation
- Livelihood Enhancement and Protection
- Construction and Improvement of Small-scale community-Infrastructure
- Establishment of Basic health and Education Services

This success stories booklet is the reflection of programme contribution, teamwork and ownership, collaboration, consensus building and creation of synergies through integration towards realisation of programme objectives. It is also an evidence of the results of collaboration and linkages established through community institutions that are formed through broad based, representative, transparent and socially inclusive process. These platforms set in motion a chain of actions that enable poor households to make informed choices and to map their journey out of poverty.

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.



01 CHANGE MAKER



Health CRP - Killa Saifullah



Under facilitation extended by Balochistan Rural Development and Research Society (BRDS) and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Bibi Rofiza has rendered services in health and social mobilisation of women. Being a 24 year old community activist and community resource person (CRP), she has particularly worked for the cause of propagating the importance of women's participation in decision making, sustainable livelihood, awareness about polio vaccination and mother and child health (MNCH), and also on the importance of hygiene in her village.

Rofiza belongs to village Killi Sanger of district Killa Saifullah, Balochistan. She is married and has five sons and three daughters.. The village faces multiple challenges including poor access to education, unavailability of socio-economic opportunities, a male chauvinistic society hindering participation of women in decision making and confining young girls and women to their houses. The households in the village are poor and vulnerable. Still, Rofiza managed to complete her matriculation in such a stifling environment where attending the school by girls was always perceived as an unconventional practice

In February 2015, BRDRS, a PPAF partner organisation approached Rofiza's village for organising communities as a first step towards implementation of the Programme for Poverty Reduction in village Killi Sanger. BRDRS convinced Rofiza to become part of the initiative and work with them. She worked dedicatedly and interacted with other women in the village to win their confidence. She was successful in mobilising about 48 women and organising themselves to establish a Village Organisation and participating in decisions aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of their village. Through the platform of Village Organisation, Rofiza organised meetings wherein she highlighted importance of savings, women empowerment, health & hygiene and education etc.

As a community resource person (CRP) in health under PPR, she was given training on mother and child health care (MNCH) and also on WASH i-e Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to ameliorate health conditions in the village. Following these trainings, she conducts weekly sessions for women in the village to enhance knowledge and awareness of women on MNCH and WASH,

during the sessions, she also motivates women to visit the nearest PPR supported health facility.

Fulfilling her social responsibility Rofiza also volunteers to teach out - of - school children, especially girls. She led a school enrolment campaign through the women community organisation in her village and went door to door to encourage parents to send their children to school. This has resulted in improving the enrolment status especially of girls in schools of her village.

Rofiza encouraged women in her village to avail the asset transfer facility under PPR for contributing towards the households income, this resulted in giving vulnerable women access to sustainable and reliable livelihood thus making them economically independent. There was a time when women of the village had to walk almost half a kilometer every day to fetch drinking water which was a laborious task therefore, Rofiza with the support of women community organisation passed a resolution for a drinking water supply scheme in her village. Under her supervision, the community women played an active part in successful completion of the scheme.

Today, through her phenomenal efforts, many girls have been enrolled in school. The socio-economic needs of the women are prioritized by community institutions in all sectors through her robust social mobilisation efforts. The assets have been transferred to vulnerable women with the purpose of empowering them to earn sustainable livelihood under PPR. There has been improvement in overall health status of women and children as a result of various awareness sessions. The villagers have better access to clean drinking water which has resulted in saving time as well as effort by women in fetching clean drinking water. The expecting mothers are now more vigilant and visit their nearest health facility for their regular checkups. Most of the villagers are getting their children vaccinated against polio. This improvement in the status of women in the village Kili Sanger can be attributed to the handwork, commitment and dedication of Rofiza.



02 MAKING THINGS HAPPEN



Community Activist - Upper Dir



Being a determined woman activist and an executive member of local support organisation (LSO), Subhania Bibi is adamantly contributing in bringing a change for ameliorating the status and worth of women in the male dominated society. She is a graduate and teaching at a nearby school. PPAF's partner organization, Khwendo Kor (KK) is implementing Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) in union council Barawal Bandai of district Upper Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa focusing on social mobilisation, livelihood enhancement & protection, community physical infrastructure, education, health and nutrition. Subhania Bibi believes that the meaningful transformation in a society can only occur if both men and women respect each other, and work towards improving their lives. She feels encouraged when issues highlighted by women communities are solved on priority basis.

Prior to the interventions under PPR, the mobility of women in the area was limited. They were expected to refrain from activities that could provide them exposure to opportunities for better access to basic needs. They mostly remained involved in managing the house chores and raising their children. They were denied the right to decision-making, the privilege rested with male members only. The situation existed primarily due to absence of women based community institutions in village Zornandi, Women were deprived of their basic rights; they had no access to education, health and livelihood etc. The lives of expecting mothers were at even greater risk as there was hardly any provision for safe deliveries. Initially, the family of Subhania was not supportive, but seeing her persistence and passion to serve underprivileged women, the family agreed to allow her to pursue with her passion.

In September 2015, the woman social organiser from KK met with women communities in Barawal Bandai with the aim of improving the living conditions of vulnerable women. Impressed with the objectives of PPR, Subhania volunteered to form the first women community organisation in her village with the participation of her friends and relatives. The core objectives of the women based organisation compelled other women to join as active members. The number of women increased from 6 to 95 due to her effective social mobilisation. Later she got elected as an executive member of the local support organisation (LSO).

Subhania has participated actively through KK in the implementation phase of PPR. She ensures the establishment of community schools for girls and identification of out - of - school girls for their enrolment in schools are specific features of PPR for which the community organisation has strived hard to succeed. She has facilitated in the identification of community resource persons (CRPs) in health, education and livelihoods who are playing a significant role in bringing awareness on social issues.

The inclusion of women and youth in community institutions has been made possible by Subhania's contributions. Through platform of LSO, she and other women communities of her village have successfully established productive linkages with other development projects, local councilors and members of provincial assembly, KP. A sanitation scheme costing 800,000 PKR has been approved under Community Driven Local Development (CDLD) project. Also, a link road worth 360,000 PKR has also been constructed through active involvement of women headed by Subhania. She has also formed a grievance committee for women in LSO that aims at consoling and resolving issues of women.



03 SYMBOL OF COURAGE



Asset Beneficiary - Pishin



Bibi Amina now 40 always desired for educating her children; comprising four daughters and three sons. Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) with the support of PPAF under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) transferred livelihood asset consisting of four sheep (two lambing sheep) worth 50, 000 PKR to set her own enterprise. The sustainable livelihood boosted her confidence as well as her savings. She bought a cow from the sale of reared sheep. The cow is a valuable asset which enables her to earn 18,000 PKR (@ 60PKR per liter) per month through the sale of milk.

Bibi Amina lives in village Killi Zarghoon of union council Khushab, district Pishin, Balochistan. She had the responsibility of financially supporting her seven children (aged between 4-12) when the husband passed away. She began to do labor work on a daily wage of 300 PKR which was not sufficient for the family's sustenance sometimes, she had to approach villagers to borrow money in times of need. And sometimes, she used to get donations from other villagers which always wrecked her self-esteem. She enrolled her children in local Madrassa because she could not afford the expenditures of sending her children to school.

In May 2015, a PPAF partner organisation, Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) formed a community organisation in Amna's village. Since then, she is a member of Muskan women community organisation. The community organisation passed a resolution in her favour for a livestock

support on the basis of the poverty score card ranking of 14 during the livelihood interventions in the village. She chose livestock for livelihood as she had basic skills about goat rearing. Most of the villagers and all community members in the village started buying milk from her. She has also played an active role as the member of CO in the PPR supported interventions. She has become a symbol of courage and determination for the women of her village.

The livelihood support has ameliorated the financial conditions of her family. She is making a net profit of 15,000 PKR per month. The setting up of a small enterprise has made her financially viable to enrol all children in school. The consumption expenditures are going smooth mingled with savings. She has plans to buy more cows to expand her business to form a big cattle farm.



04 FROM POVERTY TO PROSPERITY



Asset Beneficiary - Gwadar



Babu Ali has been provided with assets worth 50,000 PKR to rebuild his fishing livelihood. The support has improved his economic status by increasing his daily income from 300 PKR in the past to 2,500-5,000 PKR currently. Being an active member of community organisation, he enjoys a good social status in the community. "I am very grateful to Government of Italy, PPAF and National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) for believing in my skills and supporting me to rebuild this fishing occupation" says Babu Ali enthusiastically.

Babu Ali is a recipient of asset transfer support extended under LEP component of PPAF's Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR). He hails from poor fishermen community of village Surbander located in Gwadar. He had the responsibility of fulfilling needs of a seven member family including six children and a wife. Babu Ali's average daily income was hardly 300 PKR. The family was living in a miserable condition and none of the children in the family were attending school. Despite having good fishing skills, he lacked financial resources to buy a proper boat and net for fishing. He was putting life at risk by sea voyaging on an unsafe small local boat built with thermopore.

Babu Ali has been an active member of Kangani Community Organisation formed with the support of NRSP, a PPAF partner organisation working in Gwadar for implementation of the Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR). The local community organisation identified him for an asset transfer on the basis of a very low poverty score card ranking of 10. Before an asset transfer worth of 50,000 PKR, he was given a five-days

training on enterprise development by NRSP which aimed at capacity building for effective management of his fishing business.

Babu's daily income has increased tremendously to 2,500-5,000 PKR from the meager amount of 300 PKR in the past.

He now sells his produce (usually big fish and lobsters) to whole sellers and direct customers in the open market of Gwadar. The training session on Enterprise Development enabled him to develop strong linkages in fish market and also to sell fish at competitive market rates. His children have also been enrolled in a government primary school setting him on the road to prosperity



05 SAFEGUARDING FUTURE



Link Road - CPI Scheme - Swat



The construction of link road scheme in village Totkay of UC Hazara, district Swat in KP has brought about positive transformation in the lives of villagers by providing them access to basic services as well as the local market. The scheme has also increased the prospects for better future. Sajid Khan, one of the local community members mentioned, "The construction of link road has made it possible for us to immediately shift the critical patients to tehsil headquarter hospital and rural health center. Moreover, I can easily transport crops, vegetables and fruits to the market".

Totkay, a poverty stricken village in UC Hazara, is situated at a distance of about 4 kilometers from the main market of Tehsil Kabal, Swat. All the 100 households in the village depend on agriculture and livestock for sustenance and earning very less. There were problems related to mobility and daily commuting due to non-availability of a link road, the villagers had to suffer a lot in terms of connectivity with the market and strenuous walks with patients transported on carts in case of emergencies.

The rain posed another challenge for the villagers. For weeks, the low earthen track connecting the village with the paved road remained submerged in water thereby, disconnecting the village from the main city. This made it difficult to transport agricultural and fruit produce mainly wheat, rice, vegetables, peaches, apples and apricots from the village to the nearest main market.

Environmental Protection Society (EPS) with partnership and financial support of PPAF under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) had organised the local communities in the village to utilize potential for development of the area. The community organisation provided a platform to the people where they could sit together and plan to resolve the problems through communal developmental activities.

Following the community demand driven approach, the local community identified the non-availability of a link road to the nearest paved road as their main issue. As a result, the need of a link road was given a top priority in their

village development plan. After the submission of resolution, the social and technical feasibility of scheme was carried out and provided enough evidence for its viability. Soon after, the work began on different parts of the road with joint efforts of 15 members of CO Gulistan. These members remained actively engaged in construction of link road and monitored the entire process throughout its completion. The total length of the constructed road is 1,500 feet while it is 12 feet wide. The total cost of the scheme was Euro7,928 which is equivalent to PKR 9,90,945. The community contributed 15% of the total cost in the form of labor and capital cost through their joint saving while the remaining amount was given by PPR as a grant.

After the completion of project in March 2016, the road has paved the way for progress and development for the villagers of Totkay. The easy and timely access to the market has reduced time and has given boost to income generation initiatives pursued by the community. With the construction of a link road, people have moved a step forward in reducing poverty. The farmers can easily carry their produce to market and patients can certainly access health care services well in time. There is a complete ownership of community on link road due to their active involvement from planning till its implementation.



06 SAVING LIVES



PPR Supported Government Health Facility - Upper Dir



Under the Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) of Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Category D Hospital is the only health facility in Barawal region of Upper Dir which caters to the health needs of 5 adjacent Union Councils (UCs). The introduction of night shift in the hospital is the first of its kind initiative in the area. On an average 235 patients, mostly women and children are treated on monthly basis here. In addition around 15 safe deliveries also take place in a month. Mr. Zahidullah, father of a newborn child, said thankfully, "I might have lost my child or wife if the night shift services had not been introduced at Barawal Hospital".

Barawal Bandai is a scattered, mountainous and far flung union council of the district Upper Dir. The union council has a population of 27,228. Even in this present era, the people are deprived of the basic facilities like, health, education, electricity and roads etc. To add to this, there is only one government health facility which is a "Category D Hospital". This is the only health facility in Barawal region which covers the adjacent UCs as well in terms of provision of healthcare services. Over a period of years though the Category D Hospital Barawal had seen some improvements in terms of services but not a single additional room had been constructed in the new set up. The building and the staff were not enough to provide adequate health services to the entire population. The hospital administration offered facilities to patients in the day time only. During emergency situations at night, people had to take their patients to District Head Quarter hospital which is located at a distance of 35 km. Therefore at night, most of the deliveries were managed at homes by traditional birth attendants which certainly were a big risk to the mother and the new born.

PPAF partner Khwendo Kor provided support for health facility in September 2016 upon considering the deteriorating condition of the hospital. The initial support was extended in terms of repair, renovation and provision of missing medical equipment, furniture and medicines in order to facilitate patients. The local community with support of health management committee and Local Support Organisation strengthened under PPR pushed the health department to depute staff on full time duty. On January 2017, health department deputed local staff i.e a lady health visitor and two male medical technicians on full time duty with facility of night shift.

As a step forward it was decided to start the first ever night shift in the hospital to facilitate the patients. The new hiring resulted in better preventive and curative health facilities. Immunization facility for newly born babies, OPD facility has also been added under PPR support. The general environment of the hospital has also changed drastically with provision of incinerator under PPR which is used to burn the hospital waste.

Zahid Ullah belongs to village Darikand of programme UC Barawal Bandai. It was on September 16, 2016, when his wife suddenly felt the labor pains. At that time, there was neither an LHV nor any trained birth attendant in the village and District Headquarter Hospital was far away to reach at that point of time. Though, he knew that there was no night shift facility for patients at Category D Hospital but still, he decided to go to the hospital. It was a great surprise to see LHV and other hospital staff working at night.

The LHV admitted his wife immediately. It was about at 5'0 clock in the morning that his wife delivered their third child in hospital. Both the mother and newborn were safe and in good health. The hospital and labor room environment was clean and overall hygiene conditions were satisfactory. The night facility has ultimately resulted in promoting safe deliveries and has reduced the risk to the mother and child during deliveries.

07 FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



PPR Initiated Community School - Lasbela



Rasheeda Bibi is a young teacher at community school that is well equipped with teaching aids and learning materials and has a good retention rate of students. The school has been established by a PPAF partner BRAC Pakistan, under the Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR). "I am not educating these underprivileged children to bring income only but I know education will help them lead a prosperous life", she mentioned with full confidence.

Rasheeda Bibi was born into a fishermen family living in the village Saleh Sarmastani of union council Winder, district Lasbela, Balochistan. Her father Huzoor Bukhsh was striving hard to support his family of six daughters and a son. There was no trend of sending children to school in her community. There were 27 out of school children of which 50% accounted for girls in her village. The nearest government school was located at a distance of 6 km away and parents were reluctant to send their children due to lack of transportation.

Rasheeda was fortunate that her parents supported her to study, but only till Grade 8th. The elder sister pleaded her parents to allow Rasheeda to continue her education for which she had to travel a distance of 6 km. She faced a lot of difficulty while traveling to school on public transport, however, she stayed persistent and passed middle level examination with good grades.

In April 2015, BRAC Pakistan started working in this area with the financial and technical assistance of PPAF. Ever since then, Rasheeda Bibi, being the literate girl of the village has been supporting BRAC Pakistan team to form community organisations of women. Due to her sheer commitment to help and guide the community women, she has established a relationship of trust with local community. Similarly, during village development planning exercise, she guided local communities, particularly women, to demand for a school in the village. Later, the community organisation approached BRAC Pakistan and requested for a school in their village so that children could have access to education. Subsequently, the partner organisation BRAC Pakistan conducted a survey in the village to determine the suitability of opening a community school. The community organisation promised to provide their community hall as a school building and to arrange for a local teacher. Her life

totally changed when being the only educated girl in community; the community designated her as a Community Resource Person (CRP) in education. She was provided training about school management and running school as a social enterprise. Besides, BRAC Pakistan under PPAF's PPR provided teaching aids, stationery items, teacher's salary, bags, uniform, note books etc. for students. Finally, in April 2016, PPR community school was established to provide education facility to out-of-school children in the village. Rasheeda Bibi led a village wide awareness campaign on school enrolment. She held meetings with parents and notables to motivate them to send their children to school. A school management committee comprising parents and teachers has also been formed to ensure provisioning of quality education in the PPR supported facility.

A quality educational facility is available to children of the underprivileged community within their village. For now, Rasheeda is teaching 25 students at community school supported under PPR. Her monthly salary is 6,000 PKR. She is very proud of her work and confident about the future of the students.



08 VISION BECOMES REALITY



PPR Initiated Community School - Awaran



Najma Bibi is a well-educated young woman hailing from district Awaran, Balochistan. She teaches at a community school established under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) through PPAF partner, Azat Foundation (AF), where 47 children with more than 50% girls are being taught in an interactive and child friendly environment. Najma Bibi says, "I firmly believe if you educate a child, you secure his/her future".

The village Qasim Joh is situated in union council Teertej of district Awaran, Balochistan. There was no primary school in the village and hence, most of the children of schoolgoing age were out of school. The population of village is poor with majority sustaining on daily wages. Due to lack of awareness and high illiteracy rate, the people have not realized the importance of education. There were 47 out of school children (35 girls) in the village. Also, the nearest government school was at an approximate distance of 5-6 kilometres, which made it hard for parents to send their children to school especially girls. In all these circumstances, Najma was able to complete graduation because of her parents' constant support.

Two years ago when Azat Foundation (AF) started working in the village Qasim Joh, it was an uphill task to mobilize the community particularly women. One day, Najma Bibi was approached by the field coordinator of Azat Foundation to mobilize the women in order to form women community organisation. Being a courageous woman, she formed the first women community organisation in her village by persuading local women and elders. During the process of village development planning initiated under the programme, she enthusiastically engaged women in planning. Under her guidance, the community members prioritized the need for school in a village. Following the resolution for school, AF set up a community school and Najma being the well-motivated community resource person in education was nominated by the community as a teacher for school. Najma also engaged her matriculate neighbor Meena Bibi to assist her in teaching. Initially, it was challenging for her to go door to door in order to convince families to send their children to school. She faced hardships but she stayed

patient and was eventually able to bring the girls to school through her hard work and dedication. She has dedicated one big room of her house for school whereas AF through PPAF's Programme for Poverty Reduction has supported the community school in terms of arranging teaching aids, teachers' salaries, stationery items and learning material for children. The school is being run under the close supervision of local support organisations and school management committee comprising the teacher and mothers. She was also trained on modern teaching methods and running school with an aim of making these schools sustainable in the long run.

She, along with school management committee, is also making linkages with civil society organisations and notables of the area for generating additional resources for managing affairs of school.

After a lot of hard work and efforts by Najma, the local community of village Qasim Joh has realized the importance of education. Currently, there are 47 children, of which more than half of the girls are enrolled in the school and receiving free of cost quality education. She is earning 6,000 PKR a month and supporting her family of nine members who are very proud of her. Najma is truly an inspiration for other women of her village.



09 FROM WORDS TO ACTION



Health CRP - Upper Dir



Now in her 30's, Shabana Gul lives in a village Zornmandi of UC Barawal Bandai, District Upper Dir of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She is an activist and a community resource person in health and vice president of Women Village Organisation, "Zornmandi" formed under the Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR). Talking about her achievements, she says with pride, "I feel so great that I have positively changed lives of other women of my village".

Most of the women in village Zornmandi are illiterate as there had been no educational opportunities for girls. Through support from her family Gul was able to complete her qualification till intermediate level, following her marriage she shifted to village Zornmandi. This came as a great cultural shock to her as she found men take lead in all day to day affairs with women not being consulted even in important family decisions. Women remained confined to the domestic affairs and had no access to basic education, health and economic opportunities. They were completely unaware of their basic constitutional rights. Gul is a mother of six daughters while her only son is suffering from leukemia. Her foremost priority has always been her family but she has always been passionate to work for women development.

The opportunity knocked the door in May 2015, when social organizers from Khwendo Kor, a PPAF partner visited village Zornmandi to introduce PPAF's Programme for Poverty Reduction. Being one of the very few literate girls in the village, Gul volunteered to mobilise women of her village to enhance their active participation in PPR development initiatives. She, along with other members of her newly formed community organisation (co), went door to door to aware and mobilise women in village. It was due to her courageous efforts that she succeeded to form five women COs parallel to five men COs in her village which were later clustered into a village organisation (VO).

Now, she has been elected as a vice president of VO Zornmandi. Being a vice president, she has ensured inclusion of women's demands and needs in Village Development Planning. She organizes regular meetings of COs & VO and collects savings from members. Under her leadership, VO has managed to open up its account in bank. She manages record of bank transactions with

other men and women members of VO and keeps guiding them about importance of women development. She serves as a lady health worker in Category D Hospital, a government health facility supported under PPR. Looking at her interest in women health, the community women nominated her as a Community Resource Person in health. Being trained as a CRP, she regularly conducts health awareness sessions with women on health and hygiene. Through platform of VO, she has led the school enrolment campaign in her village.

Gul has developed new set of managerial skills through trainings and capacity building initiatives under PPR. As the vice president of VO, Gul now has more responsibilities, and in order to fulfill these she has the support of her fellow VO members. She has created awareness among 200 women in her area and regularly visits households to advise them about the importance of health seeking behavior, pre-natal check-ups, nutrition and immunization of pregnant women and children. This has resulted in improved health of women and children. She has also facilitated enrolment of few out of school girls into a PPR supported community school in her village. She visited their homes and convinced their parents to send their daughters to school. She has gained immense respect and credibility of villagers for her volunteer services in her village.



10

BREAKING GENDER STEREOTYPES



Education CRP - Kech



Amul Sakim Baloch is just 23 but she has proved through her determination and commitment that irrespective of countless challenges, a woman has all the powers to bring a positive transformation in a society. Being a passionate community activist, a responsible office bearer of local community institution and community resource person in education, she has confidently steered the women involvement in community mobilisation, girls' education and implementation of community physical infrastructure schemes under Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR). She vows with a sparkle in her eyes, "Fulfillment of women specific needs under Italian funded PPR have given me a good enough reason to continue struggling for women empowerment through education".

Ms. Baloch hails from village Perikahan in union council Ginna, district Kech, Balochistan. Most of the population of her village is living below poverty line. Since the very beginning, women in her village had a very limited access to education and health facilities. Women were exceptionally marginalized, as they were confined to domestic affairs only. It was fundamentally a male dominated society where women were never encouraged to participate in community initiatives. Many children particularly girls were not going to school. Nevertheless, despite these challenges, Amul Baloch had the privilege of completing her Bachelor of Science degree with the support of her family.

Being a literate and well aware woman of the village, she supported National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), a PPAF partner when they commenced activities under the social mobilisation component of the Programme for Poverty Reduction two years back. Ms. Baloch encouraged other women in her village to take active part in initiatives aimed at development of the village. Due to her strong rapport with the community, she was successful in mobilising other women not only in the village but also the surrounding villages in her Union Council. She provided full support to the women, from other villages on planning, execution and monitoring of community infrastructure schemes. She has been elected as a president of women community organisation Perikahan (hamlet level), manager of village organisation Perikahan (village level) and member of local support organisation Thoomshan (union council level) due to community's confidence and faith in her abilities.

Ms. Baloch supported the women community institutions in her area through the platform of community, village and local support organisations to organize regular meetings in which she reinforced the importance of savings, women empowerment through decision-making and importance of girls' education etc.

She is also a Community Resource Person in education. Under her guidance, women of the locality participated in trainings and awareness sessions on right to education which led to their participation in activities around school development plans and enrollment campaigns for out of school children especially girls. She has undertaken trainings on social enterprise, peace and pluralism, environment and social management, gender and leadership etc. Later, she conducted awareness sessions with community women in her union council on the same thematic issues. This has led to better level of awareness on education, peace, environment management and need for women empowerment etc.

Under her leadership, CO Perikahan (F) is implementing school development plan of Girls Primary School Mazari Kahan. She conducted survey of out - of - school children in her village and then enrolled these children in schools through union council wide awareness campaigns. She has also worked as a project leader for implementing drinking water supply scheme through her CO and also for repair and renovation of PPR supported civil dispensary Perikahan.

Through efforts of Amul Sakim Baloch, 186 children (86 girls) have been enrolled in school located in her village. To serve the marginalized children, she has also established an English Language Center for improvement in language skills of government school children. The current enrollment in English Language center is 223 children (173 girls). She regularly conducts sessions and follows up visits to ensure that children are attending school.

It was under her guidance and support that women communities in Ginna brought forth need for development of Girls Primary School Mazari Kahan, a drinking water supply scheme, repair and renovation of civil dispensary Perikahan. Action on these initiatives is directly benefitting the underprivileged people especially women of the area.



11

AMBASSADOR OF KALSAHA WOMEN



Asset Beneficiary - Chitral



Birga is the president of women village organisation, "Gul Bahar" in Kalasha valley of Union Council Ayun, District Chitral. She comes from indigenous community of Kalash and as a president of women village organisation (VO), she is making outright efforts to fulfill basic needs of community in general and women in particular while preserving the unique culture of Kalash. "I am thankful to Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) for providing development opportunities to Kalasha women while ensuring strong safeguards to preserve our unique cultural identity" commented Birga zealously.

Before PPR intervention, the village Krakal was deprived of basic sanitation facilities which was badly affecting the environment and Kalasha people especially women and children were living in unhygienic conditions. Most of the households in village are poor. Further, Bashalani, a traditional Kalasha maternity home in Krakal was very shabby and lacked the basic facilities. Bashalani is an important part of Kalasha custom where, menstruating girls and women are sent to stay until they regain their "purity" as the menstruating women are considered impure according to Kalasha belief. Similarly, at the time of child birth, the mother has to stay there until she becomes pure. Bashalani was badly affected by the floods and earthquake in area. The boundary wall and building itself was in bad condition which posed a serious life risk to inhabiting women. Bashalani had no provision of clean drinking water, waste disposal and sewerage system. All this was hazardous to the health of mothers and newborns.

In March 2015, Agha Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) formed a women village organisation in village Krakal to implement PPAF's Programme for Poverty Reduction, funded by the Italian Government. Birga, a flute artist and local art conservationist then stepped forward to lead the development process for Kalasha communities particularly women in her village. Initially, women were reluctant to participate in social mobilisation process. However, Birga encouraged women and developed a realization amongst them that they should join village organisation to address their basic issues of development. Since VO formation, all the members have saved PRK 50,000 and its meetings are regularly being conducted under her leadership.

During village development planning, Birga identified adequate sanitation as

top priority of village and sensitized community women to raise the need for renovation of Bashalani, drinking water supply scheme and street pavement. Birga together with other women supervised the implementation of these women centered PPR interventions. Through participatory wealth ranking exercise, Birga along with other members have identified 4 poor women in the village eligible for livelihoods support.

The street pavement scheme was designed with total length of 1,400 feet linked to traditional Kalasha dance floor for practicing different rituals. The local community contributed in both cash and kind for execution of the scheme

Birga regularly calls meetings of VO to discuss progress of various initiatives. For this purpose, she regularly maintains the record of proceedings of all community meetings, savings and decisions which is available anytime to any member for information. To promote concept of savings, she led the process for opening up a bank account in the name of VO; an important milestone towards community driven development has been achieved. Through the construction of street pavement, 45 households comprising of 360 individuals are directly benefitting from this scheme and at the same time it has also provided a clean environment to the residents particularly children and tourists.

Under Birga's supervision, Bashalani in village Krakal has been renovated and provided with furniture, crockery, clean drinking water, sanitation and waste disposal mechanism, sewerage system etc. Now Bashalani is a safe place to live for Kalasha women. The improvement in hygienic conditions has improved the health conditions of mothers and newborns. To uplift the financial conditions of four poor women, Birga and her VO has provided threads and sewing material as asset transfer support to two women and sewing training to other two under livelihoods component of PPR. Through this financial support, the incomes and living conditions of these poor women have substantially increased. Further, Birga wishes to work on preservation and promotion of Kalasha music and crafts



12 AIMING FOR THE BEST



Asset Beneficiary - Lower Dir



Rukhsana Bibi runs a cosmetic shop in her village Manogay, UC Koto, District Lower Dir satisfactorily. She is also an active member of women community organisation Bar Kalay formed in her village.

Rukhsana believes that her household income has substantially risen after she received assets worth Rs. 50,000 extended under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) through PPAF's partner organisation Center of Excellence for Rural Development (CERD). She is earning Rs. 6,000/- per month on an average.

Middle aged Rukhsana Bibi lives in a joint family with her husband; a laborer by profession, six daughters and a son. Rukhsana's family has faced very difficult times due to financial constraints. There were episodic memories in the form of not even meeting the kitchen expenses. Rukhsana did not have any sustainable source of income besides her husband's meager earnings, and supportive aspirations towards her family.

Rukhsana enthusiastically participated in initial mobilisation meetings held by PPAF partner under PPR, Center of Excellence for Rural Development (CERD) in June 2015 to form a women community organisation. She actively supported CERD team to mobilize the women of her village. Later, she was recommended by the community for asset transfer support on the basis of poverty conditions; lack of educational background, poverty score card ranking of 14, and more importantly being determined to alter financial situation of her family. Following her demand, she was provided an Enterprise Development Training. She decided to establish a cosmetic shop to address the poverty woes of her family. Rukhsana was provided with different items to set up a cosmetic shop in her village. Her husband has been a great support

in taking up this initiative; he accompanied her to market regularly for shopping of cosmetic items

Rukhsana's determination to fight poverty has borne fruitful results. She is satiable at the average monthly earning of Rs. 6000. There was no other cosmetic shop in the village and her shop is offering a good variety of cosmetics to interest women of all ages. She is earning up to PKR 6,000/- per month. She is using her income to invest in the future of her children who are now attending school. She is making improvements in her shop and house. She is confident about being a support to afford her daughter's marriages expenses in the future.

Her success is a great source of motivation for other women of her family and village.



13 DETERMINED TO SUCCEED



Asset Beneficiary - Lower Dir



Salim is a young and determined cook who is successfully running a cooking enterprise in his village Malakand Payeen located in UC Balambat of District Lower Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He has been provided with utensils and cooking items worth Rs. 50,000 to set up a cooking shop. This asset transfer support has substantially increased his monthly income from PKR 8,000 in the past to PKR 30,000. Salim is also an active member of men community organisation in his village.

Salim belongs to a poor family comprising seven members including his wife, three daughters and two sons. With no regular source of income, life became difficult for him. He had to go to Karachi to seek a job in textile mills in order to support his family. However, it became tough back home to manage domestic affairs without him so he had to return. Then, he began working as a helper on daily wages with a local cook who was rendering cooking services at functions. However, he soon established a separate enterprise where he offered catering services to the customers. All he wanted was his own utensils for his shop which he otherwise had to rent from market causing serious issues of affordability. His monthly income of PKR 8000 proved inadequate as he couldn't even pay for the school fee of his children

In April 2016, SRSP facilitated formation of a community organisation under PPR in his village Malakand Payeen. Salim felt much relieved when his community organisation nominated him as an asset recipient under the livelihood component of PPR. With low poverty scorecard rating, he qualified the criteria to receive programme support in terms of cooking utensils worth Rs. 50,000. Soon after his nomination for asset transfer, he was given an Enterprise Development Training by SRSP. The training aimed to build his capacities to manage a small enterprise soon after the training. Salim received utensils and

cooking items to fortify enterprise.

Today, Salim feels accomplished and satisfied for bringing positive transformation in lives of his family. His monthly income has increased to Rs, 30,000 per month. Soon after receiving the livelihood support he managed to upscale his business and, demand from community for his cooking services increased significantly. Salim has employed two men to help him. Salim is very happy as his children are acquiring good education in a private school. He has a desire that his sons join Pakistan army and daughters become doctor. Purposefully, he has taken insurance policy and is paying a premium of thirty thousand rupees per year to secure the future of his children.

In the future, Salim plans to start a catering service offering food, tents and crockery along with supply of cooked food for functions at door step channelled through his own vehicle.



14 A SMART AGRICULTURALIST



CPI Mini Dam - Killa Saifullah



Samiullah belongs to village Ferozi Kan in union council Kan Mitarzai of district Killa Saifullah, Balochistan. He is the manager of village organisation Killiwal formed by Balochistan Rural Development and Research Society, one of the partner organisations of PPAF. According to Samiullah, "Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) has greatly helped the local people to move a step forward in reducing poverty, and increasing the potential for better and prosperous future".

Samiullah's village comprises of 230 households which houses approximately 1,380 people. The major crops grown in the area are apple, peaches and apricots. Nearly everyone in the village including Samiullah and his family earn their livelihood from agriculture though effective irrigation system was always a big challenge

Earlier, the snowfall and rain in the area addressed the water scarcity issues to some extent, however, this had little effect on the overall agricultural scenario of the village. Moreover, there was no alternative source of natural water like a river or canal as a result a large cultivable land remained underutilized as the small farmers were reluctant to invest their time and money on the effort that was not financially rewarding. The need for a dependable water supply always remained the village's top priority since long.

When field team of BRDRS visited the village to orient the local communities about PPR, Samiullah supported the idea and convinced his village fellows about opportunities being offered under PPR. He played a significant role in sensitizing the community to organize themselves and join hands to seek possibilities of improving their living conditions.

Under Samiullah's leadership, the village people formed a local community organisation which was later made part of a VO Killiwal. The formation of this VO provided a platform to the people to plan and solve the enduring problems through collaborated development activities. As a first step the marginalized farmer communities of the village demanded a water scheme in the Village Development Plan. Through his robust sensitization, the construction of mini dam was prioritized by the VO. It was established that construction of mini dam was one of the primary needs of the community for promoting agriculture related activities, to enhance yield, and expand cultivable area,

Samiullah together with village organisation submitted a resolution to BRDRS. The prioritized scheme was technically and socially reviewed by a team of engineers from BRDRS. Following necessary processes the proposed scheme was awarded to the community. There was formation of various committees namely the project committee, audit committee and operation and maintenance committee by Samiullah along with assignment of roles and responsibilities to each committee. Samiullah along with VO members actively participated in the implementation of the scheme comprising procurement of material, record keeping, supervision, monitoring and labor work etc. of construction of the mini dam. The total catchment area of the mini dam is 3 square miles. The scheme initiated in February 2016 got completed in May 2016. The total cost of the scheme came to Rs. 3, 231, 394 including CO share of Rs. 540,000 (20%). The scheme has been handed over to the concerned community and is being taken care off by Samiullah and his VO.

Through complete dedication and commitment of Samiullah, the local community succeeded to transform the fate of water stressed area. The completion of the mini dam has paved way for development of the people of villagers of village Ferozi Kan. The scheme benefits 230 households of 8 settlements in village and its surroundings. The mini dam is expected to irrigate approximately 1500-2000 acres of cultivable land and an additional 300-700 acres will also be brought into cultivation. During the recent rain and snowfall, the mini check dam got filled with water. As a result the vast catchment area has increased water level of the tube wells.

Thus, mini dam is likely to have a very positive impact on the livelihoods of the local farmers by enhancing the water table of 2 tube wells, 8 Karezes and 25 dug wells in the downstream. This scheme would ultimately change the lives of the ultra-poor community providing a range of economic, environmental, and social benefits, including recreation, flood control, water supply, waste management, and wildlife habitat.



15 TRANSFORMING LIVES OF THE FARMERS



Water Storage Reservoir - Pishin



Most of the credit for the construction of water storage reservoir for irrigation in remote village Kili Sahib Khan of UC Bostan, District Pishin goes to Samiullah who is president of community organisation Insaf Welfare Organisation (CO). He methodically guided the marginalized community to identify and prioritize the major challenges being faced by them. "We have no words to convey our acknowledgment to PPAF and Government of Italy for becoming a ray of hope for us and guiding us to lead improved lives." Samiullah expressed gratefully.

Killi Sahib Khan comprises of 20 households and a total population of 120 individuals. The majority of the population falls under the category of ultra-poor and their main source of income is farming, livestock and labor. The village falls under single cropping zone with wheat being its only agricultural product. Most of the area is arid and farmers rely heavily on rainfall. The scarcity of water had aggravated the situation further reducing the availability of cultivable land. With reduced annual yield and cropping intensity the price of the agricultural land further went down.

When the team from Society for Empowering Human Resources (SEHER) a PPAF partner organisation under PPR implemented the social mobilisation component in March 2015, Samiullah being the community activist volunteered his services to mobilize the local communities for demand driven implementation of PPR. When the local community organisation of men was formed in his village, members elected him as the President.

The community organisation developed a village development plan with his kind facilitation and support, which highlighted water storage reservoir as one of their priorities. Samiullah on behalf of "CO Insaf Welfare Organisation" forwarded a resolution to SEHER, along with technical and financial assistance needed for the scheme. The SEHER social and technical team proceeded and visited the site for socio-economic survey before implementation of the scheme. After necessary processes, the CO was suggested to open a bank account where 20% of the total cost of the scheme i.e Rs. 530, 315 was borne by the community while 80 % was paid by PPAF. It was difficult to take all the community members on board and motivate them

to contribute either in cash or in kind. At that point, Samiullah encouraged the local community to pool in their savings and open a bank account for reaping the benefits of community driven solar irrigation scheme. In order to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme, he together with CO members constituted three different committees comprising project, audit committee maintenance committees. The role of these committees was to check the quality of work, transparency in use of finances and ensuring regular maintenance of the scheme. Samiullah was actively involved in each and every phase of scheme implementation and guided the community and committees throughout in recordkeeping, procurement, monitoring and labor work. The construction of scheme started on February 18, 2016 and was completed on March 14, 2016.

With the completion of scheme, water is now available for irrigation purposes which has improved the living standard and lifestyle of people as well as improved the education and health conditions of the area. The reservoir has a water storage capacity of 89,856 gallons for irrigating 10 acre agriculture land. There has been a 40% increase in production of wheat in substantial increase in per capita income within the community. It has also saved the time of farmers and has enabled them to spend more time with the families to take care of prevailing issues. The children have also started attending schools.



16 SKY IS THE LIMIT



CPI Beneficiary - Kech



Noor Jan is an enthusiastic community activist and a devoted manager of local community organisation, "Sammi Sorani". She has courageously supervised and managed implementation of flood protection wall scheme in her village. Jan feels happy that the village was awarded the scheme. "We have suffered enough. We lost most of our land already. The Flood Protection Wall Scheme funded under Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) has given us hope and there is a strong belief that this scheme will improve our agricultural economy".

Jan hails from village Sorani in union council Ginna, district Kech/Turbat, Balochistan. Most of the population of her village is poor. Frosty winters and intense summers characterize the climate of Turbat, sometimes making the living conditions difficult for the people. The area has faced flash floods from time to time which has seriously affected people and destroyed acres of crops and agricultural land.

A small village of 64 households, Sorani lost acres of fertile land due to floods. The once beautiful date orchards were transformed into barren lands. It was very difficult for villagers to recover from floods every year.

When the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), a PPAF partner organisation initiated the social mobilisation activities in her village under PPR about two years ago Noor Jan actively motivated other women to attend the meetings and understand their significance. Due to her strong social bonding with the community, she successfully engaged other women in village by forming 12 women community organisations in her area.

She also managed to bring together other women from surrounding villages in the union council, Ginna. It was under the community's physical infrastructure component of the PPR that she guided the women of her union council from planning to execution and monitoring of flood protection wall scheme. Noor Jan has worked as a project leader for implementing CPI flood protection wall scheme through the village CO.

The community organisation developed a village development plan with her support, and identified flood protection wall as one of their foremost

priorities. Jan on behalf of her CO submitted a resolution to NRSP, along with technical and financial assistance needed for the scheme. The NRSP social and technical team visited the site for assessing the technical feasibility before implementation of the scheme. After necessary processes, the CO was suggested to open a bank account where 20% (Rs.109, 466) of the total cost of the scheme was borne by the community and 80% (Rs.627, 310) was paid under the programme cost.

It was difficult to take all the community members on board and motivate them to contribute 20% of the scheme amount. In order to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme, she, together with CO members, established project, audit and maintenance committees.

The role of these committees was to check the quality of work, transparency in utilizing the grant money and ensuring regular maintenance of the scheme. Jan was actively involved in each and every phase of scheme implementation herself and guided the community and committees in conducting local survey, record keeping, procurement, monitoring and labor work. The construction of scheme started in June 10, 2016 and was completed in a year's time.

Jan's determination and supportive stance along with efforts of 19 other CO women members has saved their lands and crops. With the construction of 400 feet long cut off wall and 13 feet wide stone pitching the village is safe from floods. Moreover, this wall protects almost 64 houses.

The agricultural land is preserved and this scheme has boosted the farming practices in village.

In addition, through CO savings, Jan encourages women of her village to participate in school enrollment campaigns and convince parents of out of school children to enroll them in schools. Jan along with her CO members have provided uniforms to 4 poor students, paid schools fee of 7 students, helped 14 women for CNICs formation and identified and guided 8 ultra-poor women to undertake embroidery training under the livelihoods component.



17 A RELIEF FOR WOMEN



Drinking Water Supply Scheme - Upper Dir



The construction of drinking water supply scheme in village Sohbat Khwar of union council Barawal Bandi, Upper Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is currently benefitting 40 households and 320 individuals (50% women) in the village through provision of safe and clean drinking water. The scheme is implemented by a PPAF partner organisation, Khwendo Kor (KK) under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR). Rahmani Taj, a general secretary of community organisation who was actively involved since planning till implementation of scheme said, "The scheme has solved the water problem of the villagers and has relieved women from fetching water following a strenuous walk from streams.

Sohbat Khwar is one of the remotest villages of district Upper Dir in KP. Since its inception, no development schemes had been initiated in the area to address clean drinking water issues. The nearby drinking water stream was located three kilometers away from the village. The fetching of water for domestic uses was prime duty of the women.

It was very difficult for pregnant women to carry heavy water pots from far flung areas. In May 2015, the KK field team made a number of visits to the village to introduce the local community to the PPR during community meetings. Rahmani Taj established the first women community organisation, 'Rokhana Tanzeem Lalma Muhalla' in her village with the support of KK. She was elected by the community as the General Secretary of Gulshan Gwall community organisation. At the time of village development planning in June 2016, the community organisation under the leadership of Taj Rehmani identified the need for provisioning of water tank for drinking water supply scheme as a top priority.

Later, when the integrated programme was rolled out, the community passed a resolution in favor of a drinking water supply scheme and submitted it to KK. Considering the request, KK team surveyed the site for scheme and a technical feasibility was prepared. A water test was conducted to check the quality of water, the scheme comprised a drinking water tank and the supply line. It included construction of water tank (4x4x4 feet), storage tank (8x8x7 feet) and 3000 feet long PVC pipeline. The total cost of the scheme was estimated

at Rs. 915,265 with 80% of the cost borne by PPAF and the remaining Organisation, 20% pooled in by community in cash and as labor work organisation during the implementation process, the women members of community organisation were actively involved in supervision and management of the construction phase which took one and a half months to finish

The scheme has positively impacted lives of community women by making water accessible to them today, the availability of clean drinking water in village is enabling women to complete their chores and engage in some income generating activities. The initiative has also reduced the health expenses of villagers as earlier a major portion of income was expended for treatment of water borne diseases. The community women are proud of their efforts and feel a great sense of accomplishment and satisfaction upon the completion of scheme. They fully accept the responsibility for O&M (operation and maintenance) and have reserved the funds to serve the purpose.

18 CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS HEALTH SECTOR



Health CRP - Bajur Agency



Hamida Bibi is a young health promoter from village Sadiqabad No. 2 of UC Khar in Bajaur Agency, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She has been trained as a community resource person for rendering health services under PPAF's Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) through a partner organisation, NIDA Pakistan. Under PPR, a basic health unit has also been strengthened in Tehsil Khar to enhance access of community women to basic health services. "I am thankful to PPR for providing health awareness and basic health services to community women", said Hamida Bibi while appreciated PPR.

Before PPR health interventions in Tehsil Khar, the community women had no awareness on health and hygiene, mother and child health and nutrition. Most of the deliveries were managed at homes by unskilled birth attendants in the locality. Hamida Bibi is one of the very few community women who completed her education till intermediate level. She always wanted to support women of her area to improve their health conditions.

NIDA Pakistan began working in her village in April 2015. Hamida Bibi motivated other women and established a women community organisation Roshni Salfian Colony Khar (CO) in her village. The formation of women CO brought together other women of village to focus on major challenges being faced by them. During the process of village development planning, Hamida Bibi guided women for active participation in planning and execution of PPR interventions. The CO has chosen Hamida as a community resource person in health upon recognizing her volunteerism, qualification and passion for women's development.

Since then, Hamida has served the women of village and brought awareness on basic health, hygiene and nutrition. It was under her leadership that community women proposed the need for strengthening of basic health unit in the area which is the only facility for medical treatment. However the facility was in a very bad shape and instead of providing medical relief was becoming a cause of various infections.

Through participatory process headed by Hamida, the community identified and prioritized the need for strengthening the BHU.

After being trained by NIDA Pakistan, Hamida Bibi was further oriented to conduct weekly sessions on health with local women. These household sessions aimed at promoting healthy behavior and disease prevention at household level. It is due to the dedicated efforts of Hamida that community women of the area regularly attended PPR supported CRP sessions and came to know about the importance of basic health care, health of mother and newborn, nutrition, safe deliveries and immunization.

Serving as a Health CRP, Hamida has conducted a series of household sessions with community women regarding disease prevention and health seeking behavior, nutrition, hygiene and mother and child health to increase level of knowledge and awareness of the women communities. Every week 15 - 20 women in her village attend the session. This has reduced communities' vulnerability on preventable diseases. The community gives great respect to her due to services rendered to improve the health conditions of women in remote village of Bajaur Agency.



19

WITH PURPOSE AND PASSION



Health CRP, Kalash Valley - Chitral



Gul Nazar, a community resource person in health from the Kalasha Valley in Chitral has received the Dawood Global Foundation Ladies Fund's Idol Award 2017 for her commendable contribution towards mobilizing women in Kalasha Valley under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR). The honorable Mr. Muhammad Zubair, Governor of Sindh presented the award. In 2016, after completion of her degree in Masters of Botany from Quaid - e - Azam University, Islamabad, she decided to go back to Kalasha Valley to serve the underprivileged women of her area. "I dream of a girls' school in every village. I will request the government to provide more education opportunities to girls from Northern Areas" said Gul Nazar while expressing her passion for education after receiving the award.

The Ladies Fund was established in 2007 as an initiative to provide financial security to women and to promote and train women entrepreneurs. It aims to integrate the entrepreneurial needs based on the economic and social aspects of the local communities, with respect to greater women participation in the workforce. The Ladies Fund's Idol Award recognizes an individual who has truly transformed the community, and is an inspiration to other rural women and, a role model for self-reliance.

It is truly inspiring that Gul Nazar has been able to transform her life through the power of education. Growing up in Kalasha Valley, Gul Nazar lived in a village located in the mountains of Chitral, an area deprived of basic civic facilities. Motivated by more than a passion for learning, she would study under the light of an oil lamp. Her father was a shepherd and found it extremely difficult to support her studies in his meager income. In her early childhood, she was lucky to get enrolled at Government Girls Primary School, Rumbur where she showed excellent academic performance. Realizing her aptitude for education, her father sold his livestock to collect money for seeking her admission in a renowned school of Chitral, The G.D. Langland School and College that changed her fate. Encouraged by her father, she was able to complete her secondary education. Further, it was a defining moment in her life when a French Philanthropist, Nicholas during his visit to Kalasha Valley recognized Gul Nazar's passion for higher education and supported and guided to make her wish come true. It was under financial support and

mentoring of Nicholas that she joined Quaid - e - Azam University, Islamabad for higher studies.

After completion of her degree in 2016, she decided to return to Kalasha Valley to serve the Kalasha women. From then on, Gul Nazar is the Chairperson for Kalasha People Development Network and an active member of Kalasha Culture Saving Society as well. She is also serving as a volunteer teacher at Government Middle School in Kalasha valley. She has also played a key role to motivate Kalasha women to participate in village organisations. During the village development planning, she also pleaded the request for renovation and repair of Bashalani (Kalasha maternity home) in her village.

Under PPR, Gul Nazar has headed the mobilisation of indigenous community of Kalasha women for their empowerment. While working as a Health Community Resource Person in Kalasha Valley, she conducted a series of household sessions with Kalasha women around disease prevention measures and health seeking behavior, nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene and maternal and child health to increase level of knowledge and awareness of the Kalasha communities.

It is due to her regular awareness sessions that vulnerability of women and children onto infectious diseases has considerably reduced. She, along with other community women, has led the renovation and repair of Bashalani in her village in collaboration with Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, a PPAF partner working in Kaslaha valleys of Ayun UC under PPR.

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) is really proud of Gul Nazar as she is a shining example of PPAF's contribution in Kalasha Valley being supported by Government of Italy.



20 A PROMISING ENTREPRENEUR



Asset Beneficiary, UC Ayun - Chitral



Shamshera Afzal belongs to Union Council Ayun, District Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She is an active member of Krakal women community organisation and has received livelihood support worth Rs. 50,000 from PPAF partner organisation, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction. "I want to act as a role model for women in my community to get them involved in income generation activities." Said Shamshera Afzal, a young optimistic lady who has set up a stationery shop in her village.

Shamshera belongs to a poor family and has endured several challenges in her life. She lives in village Karakal with her husband, three children and in-laws. Her husband works as laborer on daily wages and his earning are not enough to meet the family's expenses.

It was in November 2015 when Shamshera joined a community organisation which was established by Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in her village under Programme for Poverty Reduction. She was selected to avail the asset transfer facility under the livelihood component of the PPR. Based on ranking on the poverty score card, organisation. She was determined to change the condition of her life and to realize her dream she opted to setup a small stationery shop. Her business allows children from the vicinity to purchase required stationery items. Today, she earns Rs. 5,000 per month to meet the expenses of her family.

Shamshera is aware of tourism in the area therefore, she has planned to sell handicrafts during Kalash festivals to add to her earnings. This is a clear indication of her being an innovative and business minded woman. Being a progressive member of community organisation, she has facilitated community resource persons in health to conduct awareness sessions for community women on importance of health and hygiene and has also played an active role in completing a gender sensitive sanitation scheme in her village.

Running a successful stationery enterprise, she is now supporting her family well and bearing expenses of her younger brothers' education too. Shamshera

acknowledges and admires PPAF and PPR for the support and enjoys the respect she has earned while pursuing her dreams. Shamshera while expressing her gratitude said "Thanks to PPAF and PPR that I am respected in the village. I also make decisions at my home and take part in planning interventions at village level.

Shamshera is also recipient of Amtul Raqeeb Award conferred by PPAF annually upon outstanding women to acknowledge their contribution towards socio-economic development of their area.



21 A VISIONARY PAR EXCELLENCE



Education CRP - Lasbela



Zahida Bibi belongs to Union Council Sakran, District Lasbela, Balochistan. She is a community resource person in education under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR). A general secretary of a local community organisation and is also running a community school in her village.

“In a village where girls were viewed as a liability and denied education, I feel extremely proud to be teaching in a school where about half the class constitutes girls”. Said Zahida, an optimistic young woman who has committed to a reformatory change in the field of education for girls in the village.

Zahida happily acknowledges the contribution of PPAF under Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) along with the help of Government of Italy to bring transformation in such a difficult area. Zahida was able to attend school and study till the 12th grade as a result of encouragement she received from her father. It was her dream to equip herself with necessary skills and then dedicate her services to the well-being of her community, what was missing was a rightful opportunity.

After her marriage, Zahida moved to village Bahaudin (District Lasbela) The population of the village was 800 with 80 households. The local community did not believe in educating the girl child as they were generally seen as a liability. Zahida had to face tough time settling in the new setup. His husband was the sole bread-winner of a ten member family and his meager income of Rs. 7,000 per month was absolutely insufficient to meet even the everyday expenses.

There was a turning point in her life in April 2016 when BRAC Pakistan approached her community and held mobilisation meeting with community organisation (CO) members. During the meeting, she got elected as General Secretary of CO by the members. Being a well-motivated young woman, she started working as a community resource person to raise awareness in her village around girl's education, importance of clean drinking water, improved health and sanitation etc. Under her leadership, the community members

proposed the need for a school in a village. Upon realization about the importance of education in an underprivileged village, Italian funded PPR Programme, and BRAC Pakistan together extended support to open a community school. Zahida being the only educated women was selected as a teacher for school. Initially; Zahida faced difficulties as parents of majority of children denied sending them to school. But she remained patient and persistent in carrying door to door campaign to mobilize parents.

Today, Zahida is teaching 22 children, more than half are girls at a community school supported under PPR. She is earning monthly salary of around Rs. 7,000 and contributes a part of it to meet the household expenses. Zahida is a role model in the village for a cause of educating girls and running campaigns for awareness with regard to constitutional rights of girls. The commendable achievement is the trust earned through her endeavors of serving the community she has also approached the District Education Department for up gradation of community school. Because of her efforts, the Community Organisation has been successful in approval of drinking water supply scheme by BRAC Pakistan under PPR. Zahida is happy as the local women will no longer need to travel for hours every day to fetch drinking water.

Today, her family as well as people in community looks up to her with respect. Zahida is extremely passionate to find solutions and create options for girls who have been denied this basic right. She dreams to be remembered as a Champion of girls' education



22 TURNING THE TIDE



Health CRP - Killa Abdullah



Bibi Toseera, a bold and headstrong 24 year old young woman belongs to Union Council Kan Mehterzai, District Killa Saifullah, Balochistan. She is a member of a local community organisation and a resource person in health under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR). She is also striving hard to support girls' education in her union council. "I am very fortunate and proud that I have found an objective in my life. Today health and education conditions for women of my village are not what they used to be.

Perhaps, there is still a lot that needs to be done, but there is a considerable change that has ameliorated health and education conditions. And I am very happy to be contributing towards it", mentioned Bibi Toseera.

Toseera hails from District Killa Saifullah, a male dominated society where women are confined to household and domestic work. In this area, women have multiple roles to play but socio-cultural norms do not allow them to perform their roles satisfactorily. The opportunities for women are limited as well. The women and children were vulnerable to preventive diseases due to lack of knowledge and awareness.

Despite these challenges, Toseera was fortunate to have studied till tenth grade because she was always encouraged by her family to attend school. After marriage, seeing her zeal and commitment, she was encouraged by her husband to work for health and education of women in the village.

Balochistan Rural Development and Research Society, a PPAF partner organisation under PPR started working in her village in April 2015. Toseera, a firm believer in development of women motivated other local women and hence, established a women community organisation (CO). The platform of the CO brought together women of village thereby, enabling them to focus on women's issues. In the meanwhile, Toseera's hard work, commitment and ability brought her a repute which helped in augmentation of women participation in CO meetings.

During the process of village development planning initiated under the

programme, she chose to mobilize women for active participation in planning and implementation of various programme interventions. Under PPR, she has been serving voluntarily for polio vaccination, education for girls and awareness sessions of women on constitutional rights. Toseera, with the collective collaboration and assistance of other women from the village has achieved a lot. It was due to her dedication that women strongly proposed the need for renovation and up gradation of community dispensary located in the area which remains the only source for availing medical treatment but due to poor condition of the dispensary, population of UC especially women were more vulnerable. The community people had to travel too far to hospital. It was through participatory process led by Toseera, the community identified and prioritized the need for renovation of dispensary which is now benefiting the community. Now, totally committed to the cause of girls' education she also envisions provisioning of free health care for all with the support of local communities and government line departments.

Toseera is the strength and inspiration to the community that has benefitted from the financial facilitation of PPAF under PPR. She is actively engaged in addressing issues related to mother and child. She also participates in campaigns on polio vaccination in her village Jangzai. She has a strong commitment to foster well - being of women. Toseera has gratitude and appreciation for Government of Italy and PPAF for giving this wonderful life changing opportunity to her and other women of the village



23 STRIVING FOR IMPROVED HEALTH FACILITIES



Asset Beneficiary - Killa Abdullah



Kamal Uddin is a community resource person in health and has received a livelihood support worth Rs. 50,000 under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction to set up a small health enterprise in his village Abizan. This integrated intervention has not only led to a significant increase of Rs.12,000 a month in his family income has also enabled the local community to access basic health services within their village. "I feel blessed to have opted for health enterprise under PPR. It has provided me with an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people along with means of livelihood".

Kamal Uddin, a 30 year old man is living in a distant village of Abizaan, which is a mountainous area around 15 kilometers away from main road Zara Band in Killa Abdullah. He belongs to an ultra-poor segment of the community and the sole breadwinner of a nuclear family of 9 people including his wife, 3 daughters, a son, and 3 sisters. Although, he is a graduate and has also completed medical technician courses, he was working as a laborer in the apple orchards near his village. However, due to lack of employment opportunities and inadequate financial resources, neither could he start any dispensary to provide health service to the poorest people of his vicinity nor could he meet the basic family needs.

In comparison to other parts of the province, the health conditions in Kamal Uddin's area were dismal. Due to absence of adequate health facilities, the sick contacted quacks which instead of helping worsened the situation. The patients were suffering immensely. Moreover, due to illiteracy and ignorance, communities were entirely unaware about significance of immunization and vaccination, spread of polio, hepatitis and prevalence of other life threatening diseases in the area.

When PIDS initiated health component in his area in collaboration with PPAF, he immediately offered his services for the cause. To begin with he received extensive trainings on reproductive health and maternal mortality rate. His main responsibilities include sensitization of the male community members

to realize the importance of improving maternal and newborn health in their households and vicinity. Additionally he was also financially supported to open a medical store for facilitation of community members. . Although he was already aware of significance of mother and child healthcare, his understanding got further enhanced under giving him enough confidence to spread information effectively to others.

Kamal Uddin was nominated the community resource person on health with the consensus of his community organisation afterwards, local support organisation nominated him for social enterprise training around health which was conducted in Islamabad. During training, he got an opportunity to attend an extensive programme on maternal and child health, reproductive health cycle, pre-natal and post-natal care, nutrition and balanced diet. Later, he set up a medical store as well as a clinic to serve the community members through his own resources while he was provided with medicines worth PKR 50,000 by PIDS as part of the PPR. Apart from providing health services and medicines, Kamal Uddin also sensitized the community members on health issues through IEC material specifically developed in local language around hygiene, immunization and vaccination, maternal and child health care, pre-natal and post-natal care, nutrition and balanced diet.

The result of the intervention had a double impact. On one hand, it capacitated Kamal Uddin to set-up his enterprise to provide health services to his community members eventually increasing his family income while on the other hand, it also helped in increasing awareness of the local communities on primary health. Now, communities of the area are accessing the facility for regular medical check-ups and the need to travel to distant hospital is sidelined. There have been more than 620 consultation visits made to the facility including 31% visits made by women. The intervention, besides addressing health needs of the community members has also enhanced economic status of Kamal Uddin.



24 EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION



Education Enterprenure Village Hafizabad - Bajaur Agency



Nighat Bibi is a well-educated young woman from village Hafizabad of UC Khar in Bajaur Agency. She teaches at a community school established in a conservative tribal society under Italian funded Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) through PPAF partner, NIDA Pakistan. Here, 120 children with 80% girls are currently enrolled. Nighat Bibi says, "Educating girls is very important for building society with strong value system."

The village Hafizabad in Tehsil Khar of Bajaur Agency is a tribal area with various social and cultural constraints for women. There was no primary school for girls in the village and most of the girls of school going age were out of school. Poverty, lack of awareness on social issues and illiteracy were few factors for which the community did not pay attention at educating their children. There were more than 100 children who couldn't make it to school despite falling in the age bracket of school-going children.

The nearest government school was at an approximate distance of 4-5 kilometres and hence the villagers could not send their children, especially girls to schools. Most of the girls were confined to household activities. In this tribal society, Nighat was able to complete graduation in Science with the support of her family.

In April 2015, Nighat got an opportunity to meet with the field team from NIDA Pakistan. When NIDA Pakistan started working in the village, it was very difficult to organise the community women. Determined and passionate, Nighat formed the first women community organisation in her village with the support of NIDA Pakistan. During the process of planning initiatives for development of her village, she sensitized women to take part in planning for PPR interventions. Under her leadership, the community members highlighted the need for a school in village.

A resolution supporting establishment of a school was passed by the community members, following this Nighat who was already a community resource person in education was selected as a teacher by the community. In the

beginning, it was very challenging for Nighat to convince families to send their children especially girls to school. But her determination and patience worked well and she eventually succeeded in bringing girls to school.

She led the school enrolment campaign in her village with the support of her community organisation, Tameer-o-Taraqi Hafizabad Khar, Nighat was given training around managing the school as a social enterprise. While, under the education component of PPR school was provided teaching aids stationery, learning material for children and other necessary equipment. The education component also provided for teachers' salaries.

As a result of Nighat's struggle the local tribal community of village realised importance of education. Currently, there are 120 children enrolled in the school who are receiving free of cost quality education. Nighat is earning Rs. 7,000 a month and supporting her family of seven members.



25 KALASHA'S YOUNG DREAMER



Government Kalasha School - Chitral



Anardana is eight years old. She is studying at Government Kalasha Primary School in village Balankuru Rumbur, located in union council Ayun of Chitral. She belongs to the indigenous Kalasha community. The support extended to Anardana's school under PPR is a part of indigenous people planning framework devised for preservation of local Kalasha customs and traditions. "I am thankful to PPAF and the Government of Italy for securing the future of Kalasha children. It is now the best schooling facility for us", acknowledged Anardana proudly.

Anardana is a student of class 3 at Government Kalasha School. The school lacked basic facilities like furniture, teaching aids and learning material. Despite all these challenges, the Kalasha children were studying at school as this was the only school in their village. Anardana had a strong desire to get her school reconstructed which was damaged due to floods and heavy rains. Under such circumstances, it was very hard for all the children including Anardana to attend a school which was housed in an old Kalasha building and that too very dilapidated.

When Anardana learnt of various initiatives being undertaken for the overall development of the area in September 2016, Anardana attended a community meeting in her village arranged to welcome the CEO of the Pakistan Poverty alleviation Fund to the Kalasaha Valley.

During that meeting, Anardana shared her idea of a dream school and confidently presented the need for renovation of her school. Responding to her request and need of the area immediate action was taken and the Government Kalasha School went under innovation with the support of , PPAF implementing partner under the Italian funded Programmeme for Poverty Reduction.

Subsequently, AKRSP surveyed the school to determine the suitability and technical feasibility of renovation. Following the demand driven approach, the local community organisation was involved in each and every step of

renovation. To strengthen the school, PPR support was extended through provisioning of newly hired school building and equipping it with furniture, carpets, teaching aids and learning materials etc.

The children studying at the Government Kalasha School are now enjoying conductive learning environment with quality education being provided to them. The number of pupils in the renovated school has substantially increased. Anardana is now amongst 198 fortunate children studying in the Government Kalasha School. She is very proud of her school and looks forward to a bright future of the Kalasha children.





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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