Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
Delivering Prosperity

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Islamabad
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GRASP Catalyses Policy Momentum for Women Entrepreneurs' Inclusion in Sindh



As part of its commitment to inclusive development, key stakeholders convened in Karachi for a two-day gathering that featured a pair of high-impact seminars under the European Union-funded GRASP initiative: "Building a Sustainable Ecosystem for Women Entrepreneurs" and "Women in Agriculture: Leadership, Innovation & Impact." Each seminar hosted panel discussions aimed at driving actionable reforms in policy, finance, and institutional accountability, with a strong emphasis on integrating gender across all sectors, particularly agriculture.

Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture graced the event as Chief Guest. Acknowledging the contributions of GRASP and PPAF, he shared that the Prime Minister had personally encouraged his participation highlighting the significance national leadership places on the GRASP initiative for SMEs.

Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar, Minister of Agriculture Government of Sindh was guest of honour at the GRASP seminar. At this occasion, PPAF CEO Mr. Nadir Gul Barech reinforced the value of grassroots-led progress, he said, "Economic empowerment starts from the ground up. At PPAF, our core mission is to ensure women aren't just included, rather lead the way in sustainable development."

The event featured a vibrant women-led SME marketplace, where entrepreneurs showcased





their products and made on-the-spot sales transforming visibility into real opportunity .It drew strong participation from public institutions like the Human Rights Commission, Planning & Development Department, Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, National Incubation Center, and Mobilink Microfinance Bank, alongside the International Trade Centre, media, academia, and community representatives including minorities all rallying behind women's economic empowerment in Sindh.

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PPAF Facilitates Strategic Dialogue Between Policy Makers and Civil Society Partners in Sindh



PPAF hosted a meaningful and forward-looking engagement in Karachi between the National Assembly Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety (PA&SS) and its committed partner organisations from across Sindh.

The delegation, led by the Committee's Chairman Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur, included MNA Mr. Sadiq Ali Memon and Secretary PA&SS Mr. Navid Ahmed Shaikh was warmly welcomed by PPAF Chairperson Mr. Mohammad Tahseen, members of the Board of Directors, and CEO Mr. Nadir Gul Barech.

The session spotlighted the transformative impact of PPAF's partnership model across 27 districts of Sindh where grassroots organisations are actively advancing inclusive, community-led development. PPAF partner organisations shared reflections on their collaboration with PPAF, crediting the platform for strengthening their institutional capacities, enabling resource mobilisation, expanding outreach, and enhancing service delivery to underserved communities.

Chairman Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur lauded the significant contributions of civil society and PPAF in empowering vulnerable populations and institutionalising development at the grassroots. He reiterated the government and political leadership's commitment to fostering an enabling environment where civil society can thrive and lead sustainable poverty alleviation efforts from within.







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LACIP- Heavy Machinery Training Programme Kicks Off in Mandra-Punjab

Under the KfW-funded Livelihood Support and Promotion of Small Community Infrastructure Programme (LACIP II), a three-month residential training programme for heavy machinery operators is underway at the National Logistics Corporation (NLC) Training Centre in Mandra, implemented through PPAF's partner organisation, SABAWON.

This initiative, part of the Livelihood Enhancement and Protection component of LACIP II, has enrolled 30 young participants from the flood-affected districts of D.I. Khan and Lakki Marwat. Selection was carried out using participatory wealth ranking and Poverty Score Card (PSC) assessments, duly endorsed by local Village Organisations. Candidates were chosen on merit, with a focus on youth from underprivileged backgrounds those under 35 years of age, with at least matric-level education, and willing to reside at the training facility.

The opening ceremony was attended by senior representatives from SABAWON and PPAF. Colonel Naseem, Principal of the NLC Training Centre, welcomed the delegation and provided an overview of the programme. Participants receive practical instructions on operating four essential types of heavy machinery: excavators, bulldozers, road graders, and shovel machines, equipment in high demand both locally and internationally.

During the visit, participants were seen actively engaged in hands-on training. They expressed appreciation for the conducive learning environment, modern training facilities, and hostel accommodation. They thanked KfW and PPAF for playing a pivotal role in improving the livelihoods of vulnerable youth in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through quality vocational training opportunities.









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Strengthening Social Capital and Community Resilience in Azad Jammu & Kashmir



Under the umbrella of a PPAF-funded project, Hamza Development Foundation (HDF) and Basic Education Reform & Development (BERD) Foundation are driving inclusive, community-led development in some of the most remote and vulnerable districts of Azad Jammu & Kashmir including Hattian Bala, Haveli, and Neelam.

Focused on strengthening local governance and civic participation, HDF has successfully established 12 Village Organisations and two Community-Based Organisations. These grassroots platforms empower local communities to shape their own development pathways. In parallel, farmer groups are being mobilised and trained in climate-smart agricultural practices to improve food security and enhance resilience to climate shocks.

Given the region's susceptibility to natural disasters, HDF has also established 14 Village Disaster Management Committees to strengthen emergency preparedness and risk reduction efforts. Additionally, 100 youth including persons with disabilities are being trained for employment in green jobs, promoting inclusive and sustainable livelihoods.

In the neighbouring Union Councils of Athmuqam and Sharda, BERD Foundation is cultivating social capital across ten villages. By establishing ten Village Organisations and engaging over 300 individuals including women, youth, and marginalised groups, BERD is fostering participatory governance, conflict resolution, and shared resource management. Ten Emergency Response Teams have also been trained and equipped to assist their communities in crisis situations.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate a strong commitment to building community resilience, fostering inclusive growth, and advancing sustainable development in AJK's high-risk and remote regions.





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PPAF Joins Hands to Celebrate Gender-Responsive Climate Leadership

PPAF was proud to be part of the 3rd Gender Climate Award 2025, a landmark event celebrating trailblazing women and initiatives leading climate action through a gender lens. Held in Islamabad to mark the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, the event brought together diplomats, policymakers, civil society, media, and youth to honour inclusive climate leadership.

As a collaborating partner, PPAF contributed to shaping the conversation on equitable climate solutions. Chief Programmes, Mr. Arshad Rashid joined an insightful panel with representatives from UNDP, UN Women, and the Aga Khan Foundation, emphasising the importance of embedding women at the core of community-driven climate responses.

The event featured inspiring remarks from H.E. Nicolas Galey, Ambassador of France; Mr. Samuel Rizk, UNDP Resident Representative; and Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal, Minister of State for Climate Change, all underscoring the need for inclusive climate policy.

A highlight of the event was the recognition of Ms. Anusha Fatima and Ms. Aisha Farrukh, winners in the Climate Action and Climate Journalism categories, for their outstanding contributions toward sustainable change.





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Defence Victory Commemorated in PPAF Project Areas

In May PPAF, in collaboration with Paigham-e-Pakistan and its extensive network of civil society partners, led two major nationwide campaigns to commemorate significant milestones in Pakistan's history Youm-e-Tashakur and Youm-e-Takbeer.

Youm-e-Tashakur marked the successful conclusion of Operation Bunyan un Marsoos, symbolising Pakistan's unity and resilience, while Youm-e-Takbeer commemorated the 1998 nuclear tests, celebrated nationwide as a moment of pride and strategic strength.
To amplify the patriotic spirit and foster public engagement, PPAF and its partner organisations held a total of 282 events across 71 districts spanning Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. These events included flag hoisting ceremonies, peace rallies, inspiring speeches, interfaith gatherings, student performances, and special prayers for peace and prosperity.

The campaigns saw the active participation of over 18,000 individuals, including Members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, Assistant and Deputy Commissioners, local administration, civil society representatives, educators, youth, women, schoolchildren, and grassroots communities. Partner organisations swiftly mobilised communities under challenging weather conditions reflecting PPAF's strong commitment to inclusion and participatory governance.

These efforts were widely covered in national and provincial media, reinforcing a collective national message of unity, pride, and respect for those who safeguard Pakistan's sovereignty. The commemorations stood as a testament to the power of citizen-led engagement and the enduring spirit of a resilient nation.













Successful Completion of ISO EMS 14001:2015 Annual Surveillance Audit

In a noteworthy achievement, PPAF has successfully completed the ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System (EMS) Annual Surveillance Audit. Conducted by RICI Pakistan, the audit aligned with the most recent amendments to the EMS standards, which now emphasise the integration of climate change considerations into organisational risk assessments and stakeholder evaluations.

A one-day comprehensive audit was conducted, covering several key departments at PPAF, including the Human and Institutional Development – Training and Development Unit, Human Resources, Administration, Procurement, Media & Communications, and Security.The audit team assessed environmental compliance, operational processes, and system improvements, and expressed satisfaction with PPAF's continued adherence to EMS requirements and its ongoing efforts to enhance environmental performance.

As a result, PPAF has been awarded a renewed ISO EMS 14001:2015 certification, valid till March 2026. The successful renewal of the ISO EMS certification reflects the organisation's continued adherence to environmental sustainability, internal accountability, and responsible operational practices. It also acknowledges PPAF's alignment with internationally recognised standards and its efforts to integrate environmentally conscious systems across its work.



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ISO 14001:2015
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The management system of

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

Plot No. 14, Sector G-8/1, Mauve Area, INT Center, Islamabad, Pakistan.

has been assessed and certified as meeting with the requirements of

ISO 14001:2015

Under the Scope:

"Institution Focusing on Inclusive Community-Driven Development for Poverty Alleviation and Social Transformation in Pakistan."

IAS ACCREDITED
Management Systems Certification Body
MSCB-104

IAF Code : 38
Certificate Number : PK150087
Issue date : 02-06-2025.
Valid till : 06-03-2026.
Original issue date : 07-03-2015.

Authorized Signature

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Stories from the Field

Threading a Path to Financial Independence

Ramesh Kumar, a hardworking young man from Union Council Samaro in District Umerkot, Sindh, lives in a joint family. As the eldest son, he shoulders the responsibility of supporting his parents, siblings, wife, and two school-going children. With limited resources, putting food on the table and ensuring his children's education was a daily challenge.

Ramesh had learnt overlocking and pico stitching at a local tailoring centre, later he set up a small shop offering the same services with a single machine, earning Rs. 12,000 per month working daily. Despite working long hours and earning Rs. 12,000 per month, his income was insufficient to meet the rising household and educational expenses. Ramesh aspired to grow his business but lacked the capital to invest. His hopes were reignited when he learned about the Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan Programme, implemented by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) through its partner organization, OPRCT, in his district.

He applied and received Rs. 75,000, which enabled him to buy a second machine and employ his younger brother. This investment doubled his income to Rs. 24,000. He now comfortably manages household expenses, repays his loan instalments, and contributes to a local savings committee.

What makes Ramesh's story truly inspiring is that his journey didn't just lift him out of financial instability—it also created employment within his family. "Today, I proudly run my own business and support my family with dignity," he says. "Thanks to the support of PPAF and OPRCT, I have not only improved my livelihood but also helped my brother start his".



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Hafeezian Bibi's Journey to Healing

In the small village of Abdul Ghafar, Union Council Rakh Fazilpur, District Rajanpur Punjab, healthcare is often out of reach for many residents. Among them is Hafeezian Bibi, a 55-year-old widow who had been silently suffering from chronic joint pain for years. With no nearby health facility and limited financial resources, she had accepted her condition as fate—until CHEF International, with the financial support of PPAF under the Restoring Social Services and Climate Resilience project, organised a free medical camp in her village. On advice from her neighbours and members of the village organisation, she decided to see the doctor at the medical camp and get herself assessed for her medical condition.

At the medical camp, Hafeezian was warmly welcomed by the medical team. She was given a thorough check-up by a qualified doctor who diagnosed her with age-related arthritis. For the first time, she received not only a clear understanding of her condition but also proper medical advice and free medicines to help manage the pain. The staff explained how she could make small changes in her daily routine to reduce discomfort and improve mobility. She was also taught simple exercises she could do at home. Hafeezian's eyes welled up with tears as she left the camp—not from pain, but from relief. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude, saying, "For years, I thought I had to live with this pain. Today, someone cared enough to listen and help me. May Allah bless CHEF International and PPAF for bringing this camp to our doorstep."

Her story is just one among many that reflect the impact of this medical camp. Hafeezian Bibi's experience not only brought her physical relief but also renewed hope that even in remote villages, compassionate care can reach those who need it most.



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From Needle to Network

In the village of Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zainab Nazir, an educated woman with a Master's degree once saw her ambitions fading into the background of daily domestic responsibilities. Despite her talent for stitching, living far from commercial markets left her feeling disconnected from any opportunity to grow or earn.

Her turning point came when the Ba-Ikhtiyar (Empowered Women) Project reached her doorstep. Led by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), supported by PTCL Group, and implemented in Haripur by NRSP, the initiative aimed to empower women through vocational and digital inclusion. A social mobiliser from NRSP conducted a Training Needs Assessment in the village and identified Zainab as one of 100 women with strong entrepreneurial potential.

Zainab was enrolled in a structured training programme at the TEVTA Skills Centre, where she enhanced her stitching skills and received comprehensive support in life skills, financial literacy, and digital literacy. As part of the project, she was also equipped with a smartphone, internet access, and hands-on training in e-commerce—including onboarding on the Daraz platform.

Equipped with new skills, tools, and market access, Zainab turned her home-based stitching into a thriving online business. Her monthly income has surged from a modest PKR 2,000–5,000 to an impressive PKR 75,000, a transformation she attributes entirely to the support she received. "This project revived everything I had studied and dreamed of. For the first time, I truly feel Ba-Ikhtiyar (empowered)," she says with pride.

What started as simple dressmaking at home has grown into a flourishing online business. Today, she receives orders nationwide and internationally through the Daraz E-commerce platform and collaborates with RASTAH, a renowned Pakistani international apparel brand.

