Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
Delivering Prosperity

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PPAF's Orientation Workshop Equips Partners for Action



As part of the PPAF-funded Restoration of Social Services & Climate Resilience (RSS&CR) project, which is being implemented across 19 flood-affected districts in Pakistan, a three-day Orientation Workshop was held in Islamabad. This workshop brought together staff from 34 implementing partner organisations (POs) and the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) they selected through a rigorous process.

During the workshop, participants received training on various thematic areas, including Social Mobilisation, Health, Education, Disaster Risk Management, Climate Resilient Planning & Development, and Gender Inclusive Planning. Using training modules developed by PPAF and other reputable organisations, participants were equipped with the knowledge needed to train local communities and effectively implement project activities. The sessions were facilitated by sector experts from PPAF.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Mr. Nadir Gul Barech, CEO-PPAF, presented certificates to the participants. He urged participants to remain focused and dedicated, emphasising that successful resource mobilisation demands concerted efforts to effectively implement projects and achieve meaningful results.







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PPAF joins the Launch of the Pakistan Tourism Profile 2024

Pakistan's tourism sector is steadily growing, with efforts focused on boosting local economies and supporting communities. Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) CEO, Mr. Nadir Gul Barech alongside Chairman, Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan participated in the launch of Pakistan Tourism Profile 2024 in Islamabad recently.

Providing insights into PPAF's work in promoting tourism in marginalised areas, Mr. Nadir Gul Barech explained that from establishing homestays in Neelum Valley to enhancing the UNESCO World Heritage site in Taxila, PPAF is creating opportunities for local residents while preserving cultural heritage and supporting economic growth through tourism. He shared that PPAF has led key tourism projects, including an eco-tourism initiative in Sharda, Neelum Valley, where household were provided financial assistance to set up homestay accommodations, connecting locals with tourists through a dedicated platform. Additionally, PPAF is transforming Tehjian Bazar into a tourist destination in AJK and has launched a Rs. 60 million project at the UNESCO World Heritage site in Taxila to promote the Gandhara civilization through responsible eco-tourism.

In his speech, Mr. Barech emphasised the wide-ranging impact of tourism on sectors like transportation, hospitality, trade, and artisan businesses. He underscored how targeted interventions in tourism can play a vital role in job creation and poverty alleviation, reinforcing PPAF's commitment to harnessing tourism's potential for sustainable development.







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Bridging Knowledge for Enhancing Social Development Practices

The Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) at the National Institute of Management (NIM) is mandatory for civil service officers in BS-18, for their promotion to higher ranks. As part of their training, participants from the 41st MCMC batch visited the PPAF head office, where Mr. Arshad Rashid, Chief Programmes, provided an in-depth briefing on organisation's functions, performance, and key operational strategies. He elaborated on PPAF's poverty graduation model aimed at uplifting marginalised communities across Pakistan, through its various thematic interventions along livelihoods, health, education, access to finance, climate resilience, and community infrastructure, all complementing the government's Sustainable Development Goals and efforts to reduce multidimensional poverty.

The participants expressed that the visit provided valuable insights, calling it a rewarding experience to witness firsthand the positive impact PPAF's programmes have made in the lives of the marginalised, establishing it as one of the leading organisations in the development sector.









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Entrepreneurship Skills Training for Afghan Youth



The Poverty Graduation Programme for Afghan refugees (PGP), funded by UNHCR and led by PPAF focuses on addressing unemployment, lack of skills, and limited access to resources. The programme aims to empower refugees, particularly youth, by providing entrepreneurial education, skills training, and startup support in regions including Upper Dir, Malakand, Peshawar, Quetta, Killa Saifullah and Islamabad.

Integrating with the Government of Germany funded DAFI, scholarship programme, the UNHCR supports Afghan refugee youth pursuing higher education. Under PGP, PPAF is leading major interventions that also include skills training, startup grants, and exposure visits for 90 individuals at National Incubation Centres in Peshawar, Quetta, and Islamabad. These efforts aim to promote self-reliance among refugee youth, especially those participating in the UNHCR's DAFI scholars' programme.

Entrepreneurship skill training has already commenced in Peshawar, where 30 Afghan refugee DAFI scholars, including three women, are receiving business management training at the Business Incubation Centre (BIC) of the Institute of Management Sciences. The remaining participants will receive their training at the National Science and Technology Park campuses in Islamabad and Quetta.







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Surveying the Impact of Matching Grants on SMEs

The European Union funded GRASP has launched a Grant Tracking Survey in Sindh and Balochistan, using the GRASP mobile app to gather data directly from matching grant beneficiaries in both the provinces. So far, 175 matching grant beneficiaries in Sindh and 54% of those in Balochistan have been surveyed. This activity, undertaken by PPAF team under the component of A2F, focuses on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that have benefited from GRASP's matching grants.

The primary goal is to assess the matching grants' impact, examining key performance indicators such as sales growth, profit increases, job creation, and new market linkages. The survey explored how participation in GRASP's training sessions has strengthened SMEs' business acumen, contributing to their overall growth and market engagement. The findings will offer valuable insights into how these grants are transforming local businesses and driving sustainable economic development.









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Essential Healthcare for Flood-Affected Districts

To address health challenges in underserved areas, PPAF, under its Restoring Social Services and Climate Resilience (RSS&CR) Project, has planned over 600 free medical camps in 19 flood-affected districts by December, aiming to serve 55,000 patients. Fourteen of these camps are in collaboration with Transparent Hands, which provides medical teams to offer free consultations, diagnostic tests, medicines, and preventive health sessions, while PPAF is managing logistics, including venue arrangements, travel, and community mobilisation to ensure high participation

In September, 20 camps were held in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including those organised with Transparent Hands and district health departments, serving 5,183 patients, over half of whom were women and children. Services included free consultations, medicines, lab tests, and screenings for conditions such as Hepatitis B and C, blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol. Common issues treated included stomach problems, diarrhea, and hepatitis, while cardiac and diabetic patients and expecting and lactating mothers were advised about appropriate food choices and diet for maintaining good health. At several places critical patients were referred to the district headquarters hospital.









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Skills Training Empowering Women in D.I. Khan



In a significant step towards economic independence, 162 women in district Dera Ismail Khan (D.I.Khan), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have enrolled in technical and vocational training courses under the Livelihood Support & Promotion of Small Community Infrastructure Programme (LACIP). This initiative, funded by the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW, aims to equip individuals from marginalised households with the skills for improving their livelihoods.

Through courses offered at the Government Girl Polytechnic Institute D.I. Khan, women are learning a variety of skills, including grooming and beautician services, advanced tailoring, and machine embroidery.

Recently, 56 women completed their three-month training and received essential toolkits to kickstart their entrepreneurial ventures, while the remaining 106 women are currently undergoing training. These skills will not only enhance the employability of the participants but also empower them to start their own businesses



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Stories From the Field

Strength in the Face of Adversity: Zainab Bibi's Transformation Through GRASP

Quetta, nestled among towering mountains, is a city shaped by history and nature. Its rugged landscapes and crisp air reflect both its resilience and enduring strength, much like the spirit of Zainab Bibi, a determined woman who overcame tremendous challenges in life.

Zainab, a survival of domestic abuse, instead of giving up and living a miserable life struggled to conquer her hardships. Although she lacked the formal education or training needed to start a business, she still decided to launch her own livestock venture in her village. When she learnt about GRASP matching grant for small entrepreneurs, she decided to apply for it to strengthen her struggles with the livestock farm that suffered loss when a mishandled vaccination caused the loss of 10 to 15 animals, threatening her livelihood and survival.

The training under GRASP, through PPAF's local implementing partner Taraqee Foundation, transformed her approach to livestock care and business management, providing her with valuable skills in both areas. The Access to Finance sessions further



empowered her, providing insights into managing finances and securing funding for her ventures. Armed with this newfound knowledge and confidence she acquired a loan worth PKR 1,000,000 through a commercial bank. This turning point allowed Zainab to rebuild, invest in new livestock, and diversify her business. Not only did this improve her financial situation, but she also created jobs for her brothers.

Today, Zainab is an inspiration in her community, showing how perseverance and the right support can lead to success. With European Union funded GRASP's support, implemented by ITC in partnership with PPAF, FAO, and SMEDA, Zainab took charge of her future again.

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Stories From the Field

Flood Protection Wall Safeguarding Lives and Infrastructure

Gara Baloch, a village near Tank city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has long suffered from seasonal flash floods caused by the overflowing Pir Kach stream during monsoon rains. The village, predominantly consisting of "kacha" (mud) houses, faces severe damage during flash floods, with homes and infrastructure often submerged. Additionally, the village's link road, crucial for accessing education and health services, frequently becomes impassable during heavy rains.

Under Phase II of the Livelihood Support & Promotion of Small Community Infrastructure Programme (LACIP), funded by the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW, and led by PPAF with local implementation by SABAWON, the community proposed building a protective wall as a key disaster preparedness and mitigation measure under the community physical infrastructure component to address these challenges. Though still under construction, the completed sections of the wall have already proven effective. During recent monsoon floods, the wall protected 545 homes and preserved the village's infrastructure, including schools and the link road. This allowed uninterrupted access to education and health facilities, significantly improving the residents' quality of life.

Muhammad Ramzan, a local resident, highlighted the impact of the wall, stating that it has protected homes and schools from flood damage, which had previously caused extensive harm to the community. The protective wall is seen as a crucial intervention, safeguarding both livelihoods and essential services in Gara Baloch.







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Stories From the Field

A Journey of Resilience- Nabeela Bibi's empowerment through Interest Free Loan

Nabeela Bibi, the wife of Muhammad Nazir, resides in the village of Phulanwali, located in the tehsil of Havelian, district Abbottabad. Life wasn't always as challenging for Nabeela, who once lived comfortably with her family. However, illness in the family and the cost of long-term treatment plunged them into debt, as her husband, a daily wager, struggled to make ends meet.

Unaccustomed to such difficult times, Nabeela Bibi sought help by borrowing from friends and family to make ends meet. Unfortunately, without a steady source of income, repaying these debts became impossible. Her situation seemed bleak until one day, she met officials from the Ghazi Barotha Taraqiati Idara (GBTI), PPAF's local implementing partner for the Government of Pakistan's Prime Minister Interest Free Loan Programme. This encounter marked a turning point in her life.

With encouragement from GBTI, Nabeela gained the confidence to start her own venture. In 2020, she received an interest free loan of PKR 50,000, which allowed her to buy a buffalo and begin selling milk, providing a vital source of income. Her hard work paid off, enabling her to repay the loan and secure an additional PKR 72,000 interest free loan to buy another buffalo. Now owning three to four animals, Nabeela's steady income from dairy sales has helped her pay off debts and continue her family's medical treatment.

Nabeela has come a long way to stabilise her situation. As she looks to the future, she dreams of further expanding her venture, aiming to empower other women in her village to overcome their own challenges



