Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

Delivering Prosperity

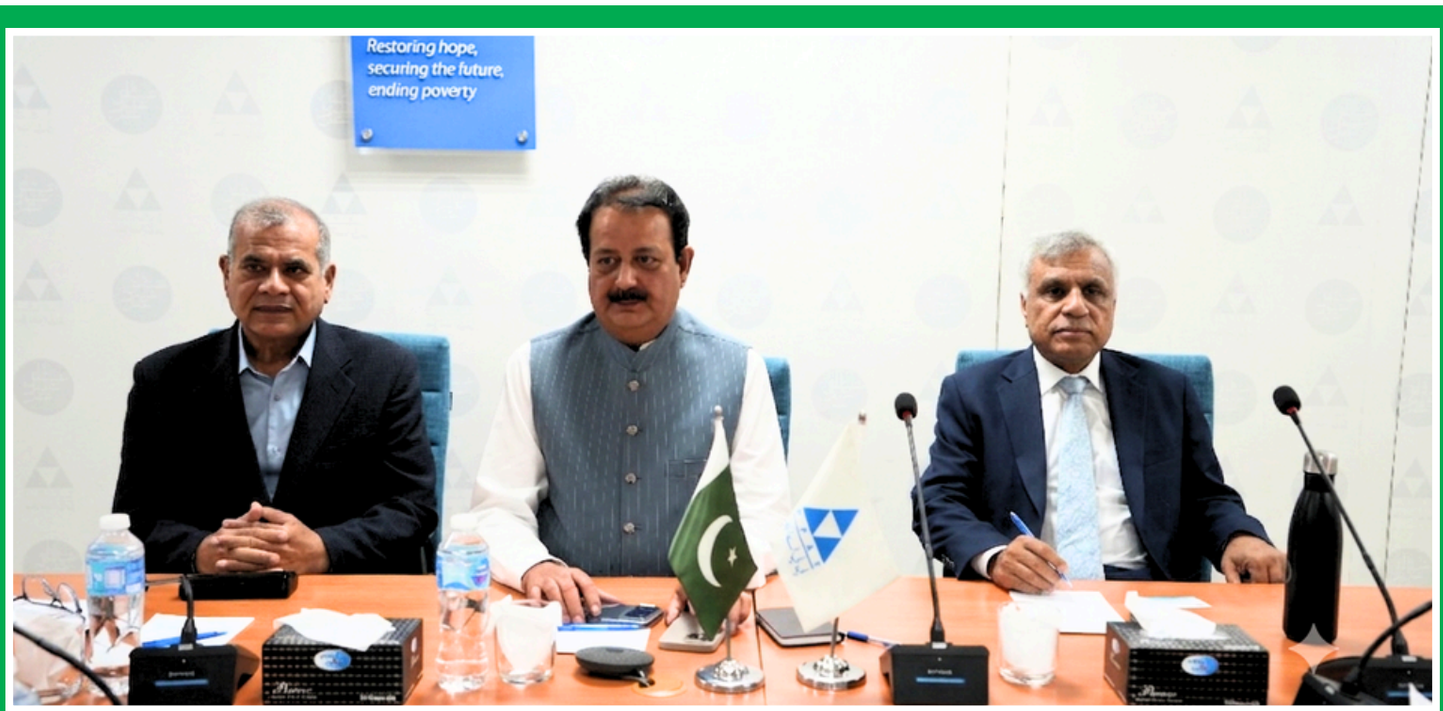
NEWSLETTER

May 2026

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Islamabad

PPAF and PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Explore Collaboration for Rural Prosperity



Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, are exploring a strategic partnership to unlock new opportunities for rural communities by combining academic expertise with grassroots development experience.

During a consultative meeting chaired by PPAF Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Nadir Gul Barech, and attended by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman and representatives from both institutions, discussions focused on strengthening peanut value chains as a pathway to economic graduation and inclusive rural development.

The collaboration aims to connect research, innovation, and market-driven solutions with the realities of smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs. By leveraging the university's technical knowledge and PPAF's extensive community network, the partnership seeks to improve productivity, strengthen market linkages, and create sustainable income-generating opportunities across rural value chains. The partnership has the potential to empower farmers, producers, and local value chain actors with the knowledge, resources, and connections needed to build resilient livelihoods and participate more effectively in emerging markets.

By translating knowledge into action, both institutions are laying the groundwork for a future where rural communities can thrive through innovation, collaboration, and sustainable economic growth. Beyond increasing economic opportunities, the initiative reflects a shared commitment to reducing inequalities and advancing equitable prosperity, particularly for underserved communities.







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Women Trained in Food Processing to Promote Rural Entrepreneurship



Thirty-seven women from Dera Ismail Khan and Tank successfully completed a 10-day hands-on training in food processing and preservation under the KfW-funded Livelihood Support and Promotion of Small Community Infrastructure Programme (LACIP)-II. Implemented by PPAF through its partner organisations, the training was conducted at the Agriculture Research Institute (ARI), Dera Ismail Khan.

The training equipped participants with practical skills to transform locally available fruits and vegetables into value-added products, including mango squash, date syrup, jams, pickles, dried vegetables, and other marketable food items. To help participants apply their skills immediately, each trainee also received a toolkit to support the establishment of a home-based enterprise.

The initiative aims to reduce post-harvest losses, improve household food security, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities by enabling women to generate income from locally available resources. By strengthening entrepreneurship and value addition at the community level, the programme is helping rural women become more competitive, market-ready, and economically resilient.







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Strengthening Local Capacity for Livestock Recovery in Balochistan



PPAF organised the second Orientation Training Workshop under the European Union-funded Post-Floods Resilient Recovery & Strengthening of the Livestock Sector in Balochistan Project, bringing together district implementation teams to strengthen technical capacity and promote a coordinated approach to post-flood recovery.

Bringing together PPAF and BRSP teams from Quetta and six target districts, Zhob, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Jafarabad, Pishin, and Loralai, the workshop created a shared platform to align efforts towards restoring livelihoods, strengthening livestock-based economies, and improving the long-term resilience of flood-affected communities.

Over two days, participants engaged in technical sessions covering value addition and food safety, livestock asset enhancement, access to financial services, income-generating opportunities, community institution strengthening, monitoring systems, and financial and procurement management. Together, these areas form the foundation for more coordinated, effective, and community-centred implementation.

Beyond strengthening technical capacities, the workshop invested in the people and systems responsible for delivering lasting change. By equipping district teams with practical knowledge and fostering greater collaboration, the initiative aims to ensure that livestock-dependent households can recover faster, diversify their incomes, and become better prepared to withstand future shocks.

Through this collective effort, resources are being channelised to help transform post-flood recovery into an opportunity to build a stronger, more resilient, and more sustainable future for communities across Balochistan.





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Lavender Cultivation Takes Root in Diamer





In the mountainous landscapes of Diamer, where communities have traditionally faced limited livelihood options and increasing climate uncertainty, PPAF is introducing lavender cultivation as a climate-resilient, high-value crop with strong market potential, enabling farmers to explore a new path towards economic resilience.

Under the Gilgit-Baltistan Local Area Development Programme, implemented by PPAF through the Hashoo Foundation, 82 farmers from the Union Councils of Islamabad Niat, Laimat Thack, and Botogah received specialised training in English lavender cultivation. Recognising the region's suitability for this relatively uncommon but high-value crop, the initiative combined technical sessions with practical demonstrations to build farmers' knowledge and confidence.

The training covered the entire production cycle, from land preparation, nursery development, and sapling plantation to irrigation management, harvesting, drying, and post-harvest processing. Farmers were also introduced to the lavender value chain and the potential of developing value-added products to expand market opportunities and increase incomes.
To support adoption, 40,000 lavender plants were distributed for cultivation across 100 kanals of land.

By introducing a high-value, climate-resilient crop, the initiative is helping diversify livelihoods, reduce dependence on climate-sensitive agricultural practices, and create new income-generating opportunities. With continued technical support and stronger market linkages, lavender cultivation has the potential to contribute to household incomes while promoting sustainable, green growth across Gilgit-Baltistan.







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Turning Opportunity into Empowerment



The Ba-Ikhtiar Initiative, a collaborative project of PPAF and PTCL, is empowering women in rural Pakistan by addressing barriers to skills development, technology, and economic opportunities. Under the initiative, PPAF is implementing the Technical Vocational Training component through the Institute of Rural Management (IRM), delivering vocational, digital and financial literacy, career guidance, life skills, and e-commerce training through customised curricula.

To date, the programme has completed 91 training batches, benefiting 2,000 women across Pakistan. Punjab has trained 700 women through 33 batches, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 500 women in 23 batches. Sindh and Balochistan have each trained 300 women through 13 batches, while 200 women have completed training in Gilgit-Baltistan through 9 batches.

In Thatta, Sindh, women trainees at the Sindh Community Foundation (SCF) received hands-on training in handicrafts and hand embroidery. The initiative is helping participants refine traditional skills, develop products with greater market potential, and build the confidence and entrepreneurial mindset needed to pursue sustainable livelihoods.

By investing in market-oriented vocational training, the Ba-Ikhtiar Initiative is enabling women to transform their talents into income-generating opportunities, strengthening household resilience and contributing to local economic development.







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Veterinary Support for Rural Communities in Umerkot

To protect livestock and strengthen rural livelihoods in drought-prone Umerkot, free veterinary vaccination camps were organised across six remote villages in the Union Councils of KS Atta Mohammad Palli and Sabho/Koonjheli under the PPAF-funded Restoring Social Services & Climate Resilience (RSS&CR) Project, implemented locally through AWARE.

The camps provided vaccinations and treatment to 3,424 animals, including goats, cows, sheep, and buffaloes, protecting them against common diseases that can have devastating economic consequences for rural households. For many families in Umerkot, livestock is more than an asset, it is a primary source of income, food security, and economic stability. Ensuring animal health is therefore critical to strengthening household resilience in the face of recurring drought and climate-related challenges.

By promoting preventive animal healthcare, the initiative is helping communities reduce avoidable livestock losses and safeguard livelihoods that depend on them. More than a standalone intervention, it forms part of the RSS&CR Project's integrated approach to strengthening climate resilience, protecting local livelihood systems, and enabling vulnerable communities to better prepare for and adapt to future shocks.







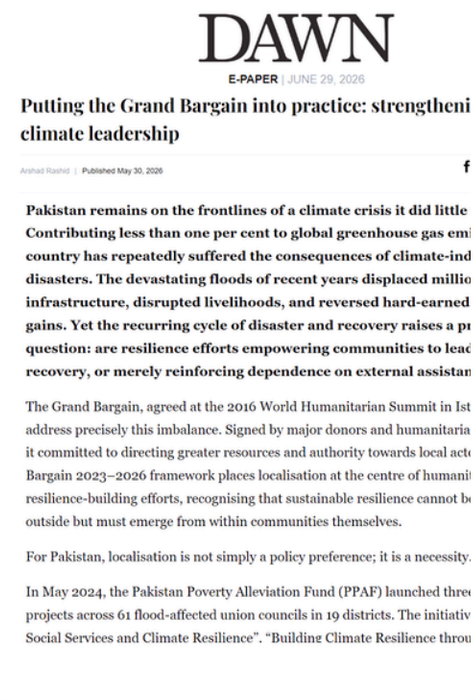


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PPAF Strengthens Thought Leadership Through National Media







DAWN

E-PAPER | JUNE 29, 2026

Putting the Grand Bargain into practice: strengtheni climate leadership

Arshad Rashid | Published May 30, 2026

Pakistan remains on the frontlines of a climate crisis it did little Contributing less than one per cent to global greenhouse gas emi country has repeatedly suffered the consequences of climate-ind disasters. The devastating floods of recent years displaced millio infrastructure, disrupted livelihoods, and reversed hard-earned gains. Yet the recurring cycle of disaster and recovery raises a pr question: are resilience efforts empowering communities to lead recovery, or merely reinforcing dependence on external assistan

The Grand Bargain, agreed at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Ist address precisely this imbalance. Signed by major donors and humanitaria it committed to directing greater resources and authority towards local act Bargain 2023–2026 framework places localisation at the centre of humanit resilience-building efforts, recognising that sustainable resilience cannot b outside but must emerge from within communities themselves.

For Pakistan, localisation is not simply a policy preference; it is a necessity.

In May 2024, the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) launched three projects across 61 flood-affected union councils in 19 districts. The initiativ Social Services and Climate Resilience". "Building Climate Resilience throu

PPAF continued to strengthen its public visibility and thought leadership through national print and broadcast media, highlighting innovative approaches to poverty reduction, climate resilience, renewable energy, and inclusive development.

CEO Mr. Nadir Gul Barech, in an interview with Wealth Pakistan, highlighted how renewable energy investments and community-led initiatives are fostering sustainable livelihoods and strengthening Pakistan's economic resilience. He also reaffirmed PPAF's commitment to supporting women-led social enterprises as drivers of inclusive and sustainable development.

Chief Programmes Mr. Arshad Rashid further advanced PPAF's thought leadership through an opinion article published in Dawn, titled Putting the Grand Bargain into Practice: Strengthening Local Climate Leadership. The article emphasised the importance of localising climate action by bringing resources, decision-making, and ownership closer to communities. He also appeared on PTV News, where he highlighted PPAF's livelihood models enabling vulnerable households to graduate out of poverty, alongside initiatives promoting renewable energy, digital inclusion for rural women, climate-smart agriculture, and market-driven skills development.

These engagements reinforce PPAF's position as a leading voice on community-driven development and sustainable, locally led solutions for Pakistan's development challenges.

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Stories from the Field

Resilience and Self-Reliance: How Kazbano Bibi Built a Better Future for Her Family

For Kazbano Bibi, a resident of Zainab Town in Badin, Sindh, running a small home-based shop was more than a source of income; it was an opportunity to create a more secure future for her family.

Living with health complications that affected her mobility, Kazbano faced mounting financial pressures as her husband, Muhammad Haroon, a vegetable vendor was also not earning much resulting in inability to meet household expenses and medical needs. Despite these challenges, she remained determined to contribute to her family's wellbeing and gradually began operating a small general store from her home.

The Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan Programme provides reliable financial support to aspiring entrepreneurs like Kazbano. Implemented by PPAF through a nationwide network of Partner Organisations, the programme enabled her to access an interest free loan of PKR 50,000 in December 2024 through the Organization for Poverty Reduction and Community Training Program (OPRCT), one of PPAF's implementing partners.

Kazbano invested the funds in expanding her inventory, increasing sales, and creating a more stable source of income for her household. Her progress and timely repayment enabled her to access a second loan of PKR 75,000 in March 2026. This time, she diversified her business by adding slippers (chappals) to her product range, responding to increased customer demand during Eid-ul-Fitr and attracting new buyers.

The impact has been significant. The family's monthly income increased from PKR 15,000 to PKR 25,000, business assets grew, and their dependence on a single source of income decreased.

Today, Kazbano's small shop represents much more than a business. It reflects resilience, determination, and the transformative power of economic opportunity. Her journey demonstrates how access to inclusive financial services can enable women to strengthen household resilience, build sustainable livelihoods, and become active contributors to their families' economic wellbeing.

The loans didn’t just expand a business; it helped create greater stability, confidence, and a pathway towards long-term self-reliance.





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Stories from the Field

From Thirst to Hope: Clean Water Restores Lives in Killi Din Muhammad, Quetta

For years, residents of Killi Din Muhammad in Union Council Panjpai, Quetta, struggled to access clean and safe drinking water. Women and children travelled long distances to collect water, while reliance on unsafe sources exposed families to waterborne diseases and disrupted education, livelihoods, and daily life.

To address these challenges, PPAF under its Restoring Social Services and Climate Resilience (RSS&CR) Project and in collaboration with target district partner organisation IDO, rehabilitated the village's Drinking Water Supply Scheme (DWSS). A newly installed pipeline now connects the main water source directly to households, ensuring reliable access to safe drinking water for the community.

The impact extends far beyond improved infrastructure. Women can now devote more time to their families and income-generating activities, children are attending school more regularly, and households are experiencing better health outcomes due to reduced dependence on contaminated water sources.

Access to safe water is restoring more than a basic service; it is rebuilding dignity, strengthening resilience, and helping communities regain a sense of stability after the devastating floods of 2022.

Through these efforts, communities are not only recovering from past challenges but also building a more secure and sustainable future.









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Stories from the Field

From the Outskirts of Panjgur to the Global Market Stage

For Muhammad Jan, a resident of Panjgur, Balochistan, dates were more than a local crop—they represented an opportunity to build a better future. Driven by a passion for entrepreneurship, he established Baloch Hamza Brothers in 2008 with a modest investment of PKR 200,000, starting with the cleaning and packaging of dates for local markets.

Building a business, however, was far from easy. Limited storage capacity, outdated infrastructure, minimal branding, and restricted access to larger markets made it difficult to grow. During peak harvest seasons, the absence of modern cold storage often resulted in spoilage, while a lack of value-added products and limited production capacity constrained the business's potential. Yet, despite these challenges, Muhammad Jan remained determined to transform his enterprise into a competitive and sustainable business.

A breakthrough came when he connected with the European Union-funded Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) Project, implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) in partnership with the PPAF, FAO, and SMEDA. Through the project's local implementing partner, Strengthening Participatory Organisation (SPO), Muhammad Jan successfully secured a PKR 30 million matching grant during GRASP's third funding cycle following a rigorous screening and pitching process.

The financial support, complemented by business development training, financial literacy sessions, and exposure visits, enabled Muhammad Jan to modernise his operations and unlock new opportunities. He invested in a state-of-the-art cold storage facility, significantly improving product quality, reducing post-harvest losses, and ensuring year-round availability of premium dates. At the same time, Baloch Hamza Brothers diversified its product line to include date chocolate bars, date syrup, and date chips, creating new revenue streams and strengthening its market position.

The transformation exceeded expectations. Improved branding, enhanced processing capacity, and stronger marketing enabled the company to expand beyond local markets and reach buyers across Pakistan and internationally. Business growth also generated employment opportunities, created greater demand for locally produced dates, and contributed to the livelihoods of farmers across Panjgur. Muhammad Jan has since represented his enterprise and the region at prestigious national and international platforms, including FoodAg Expo and events in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Today, Baloch Hamza Brothers stands as a testament to the power of vision, perseverance, and strategic support. What began as a small homegrown enterprise has evolved into a thriving business, demonstrating how investment in local entrepreneurs can unlock innovation, create employment, promote trade, and transform indigenous resources into globally competitive products. “Success in business is not just about resources. Starting with limited capital and countless challenges, I learned that innovation, persistence, and support can transform a small idea into a thriving enterprise.” – Muhammad Jan





