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Solar-Powered Clean Drinking Water for Sahiwal Communities





Safe drinking water is fundamental to healthy communities, but ensuring reliable access in rural areas requires solutions that are both sustainable and resilient. In Sahiwal, PPAF is combining clean water access with renewable energy to address both.

Under the Building Climate Resilient Community for Sustainable Development (BRCSD) Project in Sahiwal, funded by PPAF and implemented through its partner, Comprehensive Health and Education Forum (CHEF), Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah, inaugurated a Solarised Water Filtration Plant at Village Daad Baloch. Powered by solar energy, the facility will provide safe drinking water to more than 6,000 people across approximately 550 households. He also performed the groundbreaking of the second Solarised Water Filtration Plant at Village Gamber, marking another step towards expanding climate-resilient water solutions in the area.

The BRCSD Project is supporting communities in selected union councils of Sahiwal by improving access to safe drinking water, strengthening climate-resilient infrastructure, and building community capacity. Over a two-year period, the project aims to complete 28 drinking water supply schemes, expanding access to safe and reliable water for local communities.









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Turning Peanut Potential into Rural Economic Opportunity



A locally important crop is opening new possibilities for entrepreneurship, innovation and economic opportunity in the Potohar region.

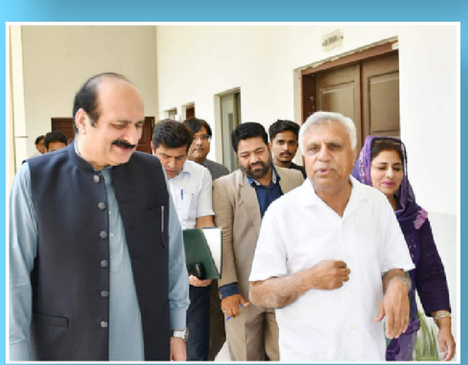
The region's potential for peanut cultivation is now being explored to open new avenues for climate-resilient livelihoods and rural enterprise development through a new partnership between PPAF and PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. The two institutions have joined hands under the Climate-Resilient Peanut Value Chain Development for Rural Enterprise and Economic Graduation Project to strengthen the peanut value chain and create new pathways for rural economic growth.

The agreement was signed by PPAF CEO Mr. Nadir Gul Barech and Vice Chancellor PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Dr. Qamar uz Zaman. Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, attended the ceremony as Chief Guest.

The project aims to move beyond production by strengthening the wider value chain, supporting local SMEs and fostering sustainable rural enterprises. By connecting agricultural production with research, innovation, entrepreneurship and market opportunities, the initiative seeks to create stronger pathways for rural communities to increase their incomes and progress towards economic graduation.

More than a partnership between two institutions, the initiative represents an investment in the potential of Pakistan's rural economy, transforming a locally significant crop into a platform for enterprise development, innovation and sustainable livelihoods.







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Advancing Peace and Social Cohesion for Sustainable Development

Peace is the foundation of sustainable development. Recognising the vital connection between peace, social cohesion and inclusive development, PPAF is supporting the International Research Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA) in convening a series of Provincial Conferences on Peace, Diplomacy and Development.

The first conference of the series, held in Peshawar, was graced by Honourable Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and brought together leaders and representatives from government, academia, civil society and the development sector to explore pathways towards a more peaceful, resilient and prosperous Pakistan.

The gathering launched a nationwide dialogue aimed at fostering meaningful conversations around peace, diplomacy, social cohesion and development. By bringing diverse stakeholders together, the initiative seeks to encourage collective understanding and strengthen collaboration around issues that influence community resilience and sustainable development.

The partnership with IRCRA provides a platform for dialogue and collaboration, recognising that lasting development requires not only economic opportunities and essential services, but also peaceful and cohesive communities. PPAF's support for the conference reflects its broader commitment to strengthening social cohesion and community resilience alongside its poverty alleviation and development interventions.

The conference reaffirmed a shared commitment to advancing dialogue, strengthening social cohesion and contributing to a more inclusive and sustainable future for Pakistan.









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Strengthening Livelihood Recovery Through Review, Learning and Planning





Effective recovery requires more than delivering support, it requires continuous learning, coordination and adaptation to ensure interventions respond to changing needs on the ground. This approach was at the centre of the Quarterly Progress Review and Planning Meeting held under the European Union funded Post-Floods Livestock Support Project.

The two-day meeting brought together PPAF leadership and senior management, the Project Management Unit (PMU), Balochistan Rural Support Programme and district teams to review progress, reflect on field experience and collectively plan the way forward.



Discussions provided an opportunity to share field-level insights, examine implementation challenges and identify practical measures to strengthen project delivery. Particular attention was given to improving coordination among teams, promoting inclusive implementation and making more effective use of the Management Information System (MIS) for monitoring, reporting and informed decision-making.



The review also highlighted the importance of stronger synergies between PPAF, implementing partners and field teams to ensure that project interventions remain responsive to the needs of flood-affected communities.



As recovery efforts continue, the quarterly review process provides a valuable platform to translate field experience into action, helping strengthen implementation, improve accountability and support more sustainable livelihood recovery for communities affected by the floods.

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Skills for a Digital Future under LACIP



Digital skills are increasingly opening new avenues for work, entrepreneurship and income generation. In Lakki Marwat, young people are gaining practical E-Commerce skills to connect with opportunities beyond traditional local markets.

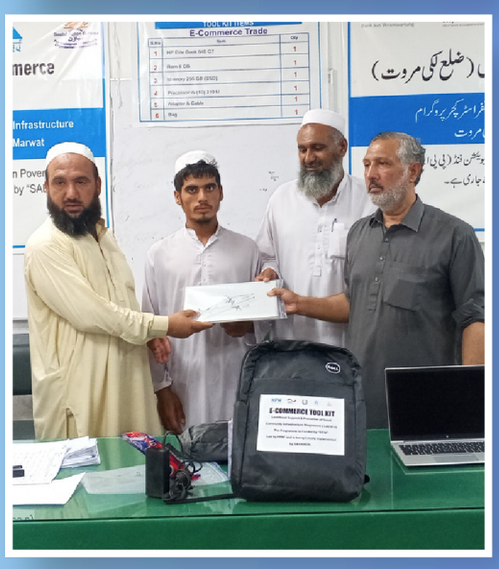
Livelihood Support & Promotion of Small Community Infrastructure Programme (LACIP), led by PPAF and funded by the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW, is being implemented through PPAF's partner organisations to strengthen livelihood opportunities in the region. Under its Livelihood Enhancement and Protection component, a three-month practical E-Commerce training was organised for 45 youth from the Union Councils of Pezu/Shahbaz Khel and Aba Khel.

PPAF's partner organisation, SABAWON organised the training at the Government Technical & Vocational Center (GTVC), Ghazni Khel, focusing on practical, market-oriented skills in digital business and online markets. The training aimed to enable participants to explore self-employment, entrepreneurship and alternative sources of household income. To help participants put their newly acquired skills into practice, laptops and relevant toolkits were also provided.

The completion ceremony was attended by the Principal of GTVC Ghazni Khel and Presidents of the respective Village Organizations, reflecting the collective commitment of local institutions and communities to creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

By equipping young people with relevant digital skills and the means to apply them, the initiative is helping expand their economic horizons and connect them with opportunities in an increasingly digital economy.





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Creating Platforms for Women Entrepreneurs to Grow





For women entrepreneurs, having a good product is only part of the journey. Access to customers, markets and the right networks can help turn skills into opportunities for enterprise and income.

Under the PPAF-PTCL Ba-Ikhtiar Initiative, the Technical Vocational Training component has now completed 95 batches, training 2,100 women across five provinces of Pakistan in a diverse range of vocational trades. With 37 batches completed in Punjab, 23 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 13 each in Sindh and Balochistan, and nine in Gilgit-Baltistan, the initiative has expanded women's access to practical skills for livelihood development, self-employment and economic participation.

Building on this training, two women entrepreneurs from an earlier Ba-Ikhtiar cohort recently participated in The Happiness Bazaar. As the Inclusion Partner, PPAF supported them to showcase their products under the SheKrafts and Green's brands. The platform provided an opportunity to introduce their products to new audiences and potential customers, exchange experiences and build networks with other women entrepreneurs and changemakers.

For the participating entrepreneurs, the Bazaar was a chance to take their skills and products into a wider marketplace, gaining exposure, connections and experience that can help shape the next stage of their entrepreneurial journey.







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Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive and Sustainable Development

Sustainable development requires more than individual interventions; it depends on institutions working together to turn shared priorities into lasting solutions. During the month, PPAF strengthened partnerships with government and key stakeholders across education, poverty alleviation, youth development, social inclusion and digital governance.

Engagements led by PPAF CEO Mr. Nadir Gul Barech included discussions with Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Provincial Minister for Secondary Education (Schools), Government of Balochistan, on strengthening collaboration in education; Senator Sardar Umar Gorgaij, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, on advancing poverty alleviation efforts; and Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, and Dr. Muhammad Waqas Saleem, Director, Centre of Excellence for National Cohesion and Outreach, on creating greater opportunities for youth through skills, entrepreneurship and community engagement.

In Balochistan, PPAF also reviewed progress with the Social Welfare Department on digitising disability data collection under the KUMAK Programme. The Android application and MIS developed by PPAF, along with training provided to 36 Social Welfare Department officials from across the province, are helping strengthen data-driven planning and service delivery for persons with disabilities.

From policy dialogue to practical systems, these engagements are helping translate shared priorities into stronger coordination, better-informed decisions and improved opportunities and services for underserved communities across Pakistan.









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Stories from the Field

Empowering Women through Kitchen Gardening and Climate-smart Agriculture in Neelum Valley

In the remote mountainous communities of Neelum Valley, women have played an important role in feeding their families and working the land. Through the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Local Area Development Programme (LADP), PPAF and BERD Foundation are helping women turn this experience into greater food security, climate resilience and livelihood opportunities.

In five villages of UC Salkhala, more than 100 women received seeds of seven varieties of seasonal vegetables along with guidance on establishing kitchen gardens. Sakina, from Village Salkhala, shared, “My family would buy vegetables, which was costly and often difficult to obtain due to harsh weather and poor road conditions.” For Sakina, the decision was to invest time and effort in growing vegetables for her family, with the hope that it would reduce household expenses and improve her children’s nutrition.

For Maria, who had spent her entire life working the land, the opportunity was different. Despite years of farming experience, she had never received practical guidance on adapting her farming practices to a changing climate. Through LADP, she was introduced to climate-smart agriculture. She and 25 other women received vegetable seeds and learned by doing. They handled tools, practiced new techniques that could make their farms more productive and resilient.

Together, Sakina’s kitchen garden and Maria’s new farming practices represent a shift from traditional experiences. Women are gaining the confidence to respond to climate challenges, strengthen household food security and explore new livelihood opportunities. As their gardens and farms will produce surplus vegetables, some women are also considering selling the excess, turning improved food security into a potential source of income and greater self-reliance.





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Stories from the Field

A Community-Owned Livestock Bank for Climate-Resilient Livelihoods

In the mountainous communities of UC Kan Mehtarzai, District Killa Saifullah in Balochistan, agriculture and livestock have long been central to livelihoods. For many families, it is a source of food, income and security. But recurring droughts, declining groundwater levels and changing climatic conditions are making traditional livelihoods increasingly difficult, particularly for women-headed households.

Under the PPAF-supported Restoring Social Services and Climate Resilience (RSSCR) Project, the Organization for Community Services and Development (OCSD) introduced a community-owned Livestock Bank to help vulnerable families build more resilient livelihoods.

The model builds on the traditional Laghzony practice, where families with larger herds would share livestock with vulnerable households to help them establish livelihoods. OCSD adapted this indigenous practice into a structured, revolving community asset. Twenty women-headed households received 40 teddy breed goats, supported by beneficiary agreements, community accountability mechanisms and technical guidance from the District Livestock Department.

The model goes beyond one-time livestock distribution. As the animals reproduce, beneficiary families retain part of the offspring while contributing the remaining animals back to the Livestock Bank for redistribution to other vulnerable households. This allows the community asset—and its benefits—to grow over time.

The pilot has already produced promising results, including: 40 goats provided to 20 women-headed households. More than 300 livestock vaccinated through two veterinary campaigns conducted with the District Livestock Department. Increased ownership of productive assets among vulnerable women. Stronger community participation, accountability and access to technical support.

By combining indigenous knowledge, climate-resilient livestock management, women's economic empowerment and community ownership, the Livestock Bank transforms a one-time intervention into a potentially self-sustaining livelihood system. The pilot demonstrates how locally driven solutions can strengthen resilience to climate change while creating sustainable pathways towards poverty reduction. With its revolving mechanism and strong community ownership, the model also offers potential for replication across other drought-prone and climate-vulnerable areas of Balochistan and Pakistan.







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Stories from the Field

From Struggle to Stability

For Ziad Akhtar, a small business selling laces, cosmetics and women's accessories became the starting point for building a more secure future for her family.

A 44-year-old resident of Village Nobatabad in Swabi, Ziad is married to a small vegetable shopkeeper and has seven children. With the family relying on a limited income, she wanted to contribute to the household and establish a source of income of her own. However, she lacked the capital needed to start her business.

Her opportunity came through the Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan Scheme, led by PPAF and implemented through its partner organisation, Ghazi Barotha Taraqiati Idara (GBTI) in Swabi. During a community outreach visit, GBTI introduced her to the scheme and supported her in developing a Micro Investment Plan. In 2018, she received her first interest free loan of PKR 50,000, which she invested in setting up her laces, cosmetics and women's accessories business. As the business gained momentum, she began earning approximately PKR 10,000–15,000 per month.

After successfully repaying her first loan, Ziad continued to build on her progress, accessing successive loans to expand her business. Her most recent loan of PKR 80,000 in 2025 enabled her to further increase her stock and strengthen her enterprise. Her growing enterprise has also contributed to greater stability at home. Alongside investing in her business, Ziad used part of the financing and her personal savings to renovate her home and contribute towards the wedding expenses of her eldest son.

From a small business idea constrained by lack of capital to an established source of income, Ziad's journey reflects what access to interest-free financing can make possible when it is combined with determination, reinvestment and continued effort.



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Stories from the Field

Clean Water Restores Health and Hope in Dhoop Sari

For the families of Dhoop Sari in UC Sehjra, District Kasur, access to safe drinking water was a daily struggle. Following the floods, mud and waste contaminated local water sources, exposing families to waterborne illnesses and making everyday life particularly difficult for children, pregnant women, older people and persons with disabilities.

Under PPAF's Restoring Social Services and Climate Resilience (RSS&CR) project, a water facility was established in partnership with AGAHE to provide the community with a reliable source of clean drinking water. The initiative benefits 1,758 people, including 950 men, 800 women and 8 persons with disabilities, across 250 households.

The solution was driven by the community itself. Through the Village Organization, Suraj Welfare Society, residents identified and championed the need for the facility. A community member donated land for its construction, while the community committed to its operation and maintenance turning the intervention into a shared investment in the village's future.

Today, families can access clean water closer to home, reducing the health risks associated with contaminated sources. Children can attend school with greater regularity, while women, persons with disabilities and older residents have greater comfort and dignity in meeting their daily water needs.

The intervention is a simple but meaningful example of how community participation and climate-resilient infrastructure can improve health, restore dignity and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities. As Zahid Abbas, a community member says "Before, our water was dirty and unsafe. Families were sick and worried. Now we have clean water. Life is better and we thank PPAF and AGAHE."



