Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

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June 2026

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PPAF Celebrates Women Climate Champions





The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, in collaboration with the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), the Embassy of France in Pakistan, UNDP Pakistan, UN Women Pakistan, Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD), and the Aga Khan Foundation, supported the successful organisation of the Gender Climate Awards 2026 to recognise women leading climate action and environmental stewardship across Pakistan. This fourth edition of the awards attracted more than 350 applications from women climate leaders across the country.

Following a rigorous evaluation process, Ms. Songul Jamal and Dr. Zillay Marium were honoured for their exceptional contributions to climate action. Their pioneering work in coral reef restoration, coastal protection, and transforming organic waste into fertile soil demonstrates how locally driven, women-led solutions are addressing some of Pakistan's most pressing environmental challenges.

The event featured keynote addresses by Senator Sherry Rehman, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, and Ms. Shezra Mansab, Minister of State for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, who highlighted the importance of women's leadership in advancing climate resilience.

As a supporting partner, PPAF contributed to a collaborative platform that brought greater visibility to women climate leaders and their work. By celebrating innovation, environmental stewardship, and community-level impact, the Gender Climate Awards 2026 encouraged wider recognition of women's role in building a more inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient Pakistan.







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Driving Youth Empowerment Through Skills and Enterprise Development



Marking an important step towards youth empowerment and green enterprise, PPAF participated in the inauguration of the Community-Based EV Motorcycle Repair & Maintenance Training Programme and the LED Bulb Micro-Assembly Unit, Pilot Training & Enterprise Development Centre at IFGF Church, Rawalpindi.

Mr. Nadir Gul Barech, Chief Executive Officer, PPAF, attended the event as the Chief Guest, reaffirming the organisation's commitment to empowering young people through market-driven skills, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. The ceremony was also attended by Mr. Ghulam Sagheer Shahid, Chief Coordination Officer, Punjab Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (PCECVE), Home Department Punjab, who joined as the Guest of Honour. Both emphasised the importance of investing in skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship to channel the potential of young people towards Pakistan's socio-economic progress.

The initiative, launched in collaboration with public institutions and community partners, reflects the power of multi-stakeholder partnerships in equipping youth with practical skills for emerging industries while creating pathways towards employment, enterprise development, and economic self-reliance. More than 100 young participants, including women and members of the Kalash community, attended the event, highlighting a strong commitment to inclusion and equal access to opportunity.

The inauguration underscored a shared commitment among stakeholders to expand opportunities for youth through skills development and enterprise, reinforcing the importance of collaborative efforts in promoting inclusive and sustainable development.







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Strengthening Partnerships for Resilient Livestock Recovery in Balochistan



Under the European Union-funded Post-Floods Resilient Recovery and Strengthening of the Livestock Sector in Balochistan Project, PPAF strengthened strategic partnerships to advance women's socio-economic empowerment and promote sustainable development in the province.

As part of these efforts, the PPAF team met with Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi, Minister for Women Development Department, Government of Balochistan, and Prof. Dr Rubina Mushtaq, Vice Chancellor, Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU), Quetta, to explore avenues for collaboration under the project.

The discussions focused on expanding opportunities for women in the livestock sector through stronger institutional partnerships, while fostering academia–development linkages to promote research, innovation, knowledge sharing, and skills development. Both engagements reaffirmed a shared commitment to enhancing women's socio-economic inclusion, building resilient livelihoods, and advancing inclusive and sustainable development across Balochistan.



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Turning Awareness into Action





PPAF marked World Environment Day 2026 through a nationwide campaign that transformed environmental awareness into practical, community-led action. Implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Paigham-e-Pakistan, Centres of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism, and PPAF's Partner Organisations, the campaign reached all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Islamabad Capital Territory.

A total of 229 events were organised by 51 partner organisations, including 63 in Balochistan, 59 in Punjab, 58 in Sindh, 26 in Gilgit-Baltistan, 20 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, two in AJK, and one in Islamabad. Nearly 4,000 trees were planted, while community infrastructure schemes were inaugurated to improve access to essential services and strengthen resilience. Interest free loan cheques worth PKR 11.4 million were also distributed, linking environmental action with livelihood and economic empowerment.

More than 22,000 people participated in these events, including approximately 12,000 men, 10,000 women, and over 3,500 members of minority communities, alongside persons with disabilities and transgender persons. Activities included plantation and cleanliness drives, awareness sessions, exhibitions, youth competitions, and community dialogues on water conservation, climate-smart agriculture, waste management, and sustainable natural-resource use.

The campaign demonstrated that World Environment Day can move beyond symbolic observance when communities are empowered to identify local challenges and lead solutions. By combining environmental protection with inclusion, livelihoods, youth engagement, and women's leadership, the initiative strengthened local ownership and reinforced the connection between community development and lasting climate resilience.







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PPAF and Government of Balochistan Explore Partnership for Women's Empowerment



PPAF continues to strengthen strategic partnerships aimed at advancing women's economic empowerment and inclusive development across Pakistan. As part of these efforts, Mr. Nadir Gul Barech, CEO, PPAF, met with Ms. Saira Atta, Secretary, Women Development Department, Government of Balochistan, to explore opportunities for collaboration in the province.

Discussions centred on expanding women's socio-economic inclusion by strengthening improving access to finance, promoting innovation, and investing in market-relevant skills. Building on PPAF's extensive development experience in Balochistan, the two organisations explored opportunities to create an enabling ecosystem where talented women entrepreneurs and professionals can access the networks, resources, and opportunities needed to thrive and contribute to the province's economic progress.

Both organisations reaffirmed shared commitment to addressing systematic barriers that limit women's access to markets, knowledge, and economic opportunities. By combining institutional expertise, PPAF and the Women Development Department aim to support initiatives that unlock women's economic potential while fostering more inclusive and resilient communities.



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PTCL-PPAF funded Water Facilities Inaugurated in Bahawalpur

PPAF in collaboration with PTCL and the Farmers Development Organisation, inaugurated two Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Filtration Plants at Sari Basti and the Rural Health Centre, Khair Pur Daha, in District Bahawalpur, Punjab under the Ba-Ikhtiar Water Project.

The facilities were formally inaugurated by Mr. Syed Atif Raza, Chief Commercial Officer, PTCL, and Mr. Arshad Rashid, Chief Programme, PPAF, in the presence of community leaders, local representatives, and project stakeholders. The event reflected the strong partnership between the public, private, and development sectors in expanding access to safe drinking water for underserved communities.

The active participation of Village Organisation members, Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Committee members, and other local stakeholders demonstrated the importance of community ownership in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the water supply systems. Their involvement reinforces the project's emphasis on locally led management and accountability.

The newly inaugurated filtration plants will provide safe and reliable drinking water to more than 3,000 households, helping to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases while improving the health and well-being of thousands of people. The initiative represents a shared commitment by PPAF, PTCL, FDO, and local communities to strengthen water security and deliver sustainable, community-driven solutions that enhance the quality of life in rural Pakistan.









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Nature-Based Livelihoods Empower Women in Gilgit-Baltistan







In the climate-vulnerable valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan, indigenous medicinal and aromatic plants are creating new livelihood opportunities for rural women while encouraging the sustainable use of the region's natural resources.

Under PPAF's Rehabilitation of Disaster-Affected Districts of Gilgit-Baltistan project, implemented through the Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Programme, 20 women from Union Council Hopar received training in climate-smart cultivation, sustainable harvesting, processing and commercialisation of locally available plants.

The training also covered value addition, quality control, branding and market linkages, enabling participants to explore home-based enterprises and convert local knowledge into viable economic opportunities. Alongside technical skills, the women gained greater confidence to participate in income-generating activities and contribute to their households.

Continued mentoring and support for market access are helping participants develop locally produced goods and connect with wider economic opportunities. By linking traditional knowledge with modern business practices, the initiative is supporting women's participation in the green economy while promoting the responsible management of Gilgit-Baltistan's biodiversity.

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PPAF Hosts PIDE Scholars for an Immersive Learning Experience

22 scholars and faculty members from the MPhil Public Policy Programme at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) were hosted by PPAF for a study visit designed to bridge academic learning with the realities of community-driven development in Pakistan.

The visit aimed at deepening their understanding of poverty alleviation and community-driven development in Pakistan. It introduced them to PPAF's institutional approach, flagship development interventions and its Graduation Model.

Through interactive knowledge-sharing sessions, the PPAF team apprised participants of the organisation's approach to programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation, infrastructure development, access to finance, and financial inclusion. The discussions offered practical insights into how these areas come together within PPAF's integrated development model to expand essential services, strengthen rural infrastructure, and support marginalised communities across the country.

More than a study visit, the engagement demonstrated the importance of strengthening links between academic institutions and the development sector to nurture informed leadership. By connecting research with field-based experience, the engagement highlighted the value of evidence-informed policymaking in addressing complex development challenges.









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Stories from the Field

From Flood Losses to a Renewed Livelihood

Under the European union funded Post-Floods Resilient Recovery and Strengthening of the Livestock Sector in Balochistan project, implemented by PPAF through BRSP, flood-affected families are being helped to restore their livelihoods by replacing productive assets lost during the devastating floods of 2022.

Among the beneficiaries is Abdul Nabi, a livestock farmer from Killi Ragi, Union Council Batazai, District Pishin, whose family's entire flock was swept away during the 2022 floods. With livestock serving as the family's primary source of income, the disaster left Abdul Nabi, his father, and his brother struggling to meet their daily needs and rebuild their future.

Following a community assessment and verification process, Abdul Nabi's family received five sheep through the project's livestock restocking intervention. This timely support enabled them to resume livestock farming and begin restoring their livelihood. Beyond restoring the family's livelihood, the livestock have improved household nutrition and re-established a productive asset, strengthening their economic resilience.

Encouraged by the progress, Abdul Nabi hopes to expand his flock through natural breeding over the coming years. A larger herd will allow the family to increase its income, reinvest in livestock production, improve living conditions, and provide better educational opportunities for their children.

Reflecting on his family's recovery, Abdul Nabi shared, "The livestock support has helped us restart our livelihood. These animals have given our family an opportunity to recover and move forward. As our flock grows, we hope to strengthen our income, educate our children, and build a more secure future."

His story illustrates how targeted livelihood recovery interventions can help vulnerable households rebuild productive assets, restore economic stability, and recover with dignity following climate-induced disasters. Through collaborative efforts with the European Union and BRSP, PPAF continues to strengthen the resilience of flood-affected communities and support sustainable recovery across Balochistan.





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From Skill to Sustainable Livelihood

For Dilawaiz, a resident of Babar Pakka in Union Council Prova, District D.I. Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa limited skills once stood between her and the dignified livelihood she hoped to build for her family.

Her journey changed when she enrolled in a three-month Hand and Machine Embroidery course under the Livelihood Support and Promotion of Small Community Infrastructure Programme (LACIP-II), financed by KfW, implemented by PPAF, and delivered through the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP).

The training strengthened her craftsmanship while building the confidence and entrepreneurial understanding needed to earn independently. After completing the course, Dilawaiz received an embroidery toolkit and established a home-based enterprise. Her carefully finished work soon attracted customers from neighbouring villages, turning embroidery into a dependable source of income.

Dilawaiz's progress did not go unnoticed. When a women's technical training centre in Prova sought an embroidery instructor, Dilawaiz's Women's Village Organisation recommended her for the position. Following a competitive selection process, she successfully transitioned from trainee to trainer. Today, Dilawaiz earns a monthly salary of PKR 20,000, continues to manage her home-based business, and is passing her knowledge on to 44 young women.

"The training gave me confidence, respect, and a livelihood," she says. "Now, I am supporting my family and helping other women learn skills that can transform their lives."

Dilawaiz's progress has extended well beyond her own livelihood. Her transition from trainee to entrepreneur and instructor is now enabling other women to gain marketable skills, build confidence, and pursue income-earning opportunities within their communities.









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Interest Free Loan Transforms Zareena's Livelihood

Zareena, a resident of Union Council Shah Mardan Shah, District Umerkot, Sindh has transformed her family's future through the Prime Minister's Interest-Free Loan (PMIFL) Programme, locally implemented by PPAF through its partner, the Organisation for Poverty Reduction and Community Training Programme (OPRCT).

Living in a low-income household and relying on her husband's modest daily wages, Zareena often struggled to meet basic household expenses and continue her children's education. Her journey towards greater financial independence began in 2023, when she received her first interest free loan of PKR 50,000 and used it to purchase two goats.

Encouraged by the progress of her small livestock activity, she later obtained a second interest free loan of PKR 60,000 to expand her herd. In 2024, she received a third interest free loan of PKR 75,000, which enabled her to purchase a cow and establish a small dairy business. Each step helped her strengthen the household income and gradually build a more secure livelihood for her family.

Today, Zareena earns an additional PKR 800–1,000 per day from milk sales, helping increase her family's monthly household income from PKR 25,000 to PKR 30,000. Her diversified livelihood has strengthened the family's financial resilience, improved living conditions, supported her children's education, and strengthened her voice in household decision-making.

The positive impact of the intervention is also reflected in the family's Poverty Scorecard, which improved from 27 to 32, demonstrating meaningful progress towards economic stability and poverty graduation.

Reflecting on her journey, Zareena shared, "Before receiving the loan, we struggled to meet even our basic needs. Now, I am running my own business and contributing to my family's income. This support has given me confidence and hope for a better future for my children."

Zareena's story highlights how access to affordable finance can empower women, strengthen livelihoods, and create lasting pathways out of poverty.



