

CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION IN BALOCHISTAN



The locals of these districts enjoyed good production almost every year and were self-sufficient. Then monsoon and rain timings, which matched with their agriculture needs and calendars gradually began changing during last two

Participants of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Risk and Emergency Preparedness Training, District Panijgur.”



WE ARE THANKFUL TO EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT (ECW) FOR ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN BALOCHISTAN.

decades. Shifting rainfall patterns, characterised by no rains at the time of need, cultivation and growth, or heavy rains and hailstones, including at the time of harvesting, regularly began affecting production, which declined over the years.

Rains demolished many homes and properties, worsening crisis in these areas, affected by decades of conflict between militants and armed forces. The districts experienced multiple floods during recent years due to heavy rains, leading to loss of lives, massive devastation of properties, assets and land. Contrarily, longer droughts majorly affected their livelihood, through depletion of underground water, drying up of ponds, and scarcity of irrigation and drinking water for people and livestock. Dried out abandoned orchards are a common sight in many areas of Balochistan.

Teachers of the Education Cannot Wait supported government schools and non-formal education centres of Panjgur District could be seen participating in a training workshop on Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and Hygiene, in Panjgur. The resource persons of the Provincial Institute of Teachers' Education (PITE) were explaining climate change, increase in carbon footprint, ongoing global temperature rise, majorly due to human activities, and climate change induced disasters, including effects on eco-system and environment, during interactive discussion.

Brainstorming on climate change and its relationship with DRR was interesting. They could be seen surfing internet for knowing more about climate change. A participating teacher expressed that she could not imagine, that burning of crop residues and plastic wastes, a practice in local communities, contributes to temperature rise and climate change, and related natural disasters like flooding, droughts and decrease in agriculture production.

They were discussing how flooding had destroyed infrastructure, including many school buildings in their district, and forced many flood and drought affected children to drop out. They were convinced that climate change is the major cause of the

vicious circle of poverty, ignorance and underdevelopment.

Participants were keenly discussing the climate change cycle from reasons to effects; and adaptation to mitigation measures. They were deliberating on coping with climate change by preventing or reducing the emission of Greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere, and discussing local adoption strategies and improving resilience for combatting climate change.

Effective way outs, including selection of climate compatible crop varieties, walking and using bicycles instead of vehicles, and avoiding smoke emitting vehicles inspired. They excitedly committed including climate change in the school safety plans, which they were to develop after attending the training.



PANJGUR'S DRR TRAINING PARTICIPANT AND ECW ALP TEACHER RAJ GUL DEMONSTRATING CLIMATE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL, DHAL NIAZABAD, PANJGUR .

Education Cannot Wait (ECW) funded Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) is integrating climate change, DRR and emergency preparedness in programme's government schools and formal and non-education centres, as part of its climate change response, and for making education accessible in emergencies and protracted crises, through capacity building of teachers.

Our implementing partner, Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), is providing training to 900 teachers (60% female; 40% male) of the programme's government schools, Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Accelerated/ Alternative Programme (ALP) non-formal education centres established by the programme in

disaster-prone Loralai, Panjgur, and Kohlu districts, through Provincial Institute of Teachers' Education (PITE).

ALP teachers like Raj Gul, at Government Girls' Primary School, Dhal Niazabad, Panjgur, are leading climate change awareness and response in their schools and communities:

'My major take away during the ECW financed training on Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Hygiene Awareness in District Panjgur, was thorough formal understanding of the climate change. Climate change is the major cause of ongoing devastation worldwide, including in Panjgur. Climate change awareness is part of my school safety plan. I teach children in the ECW supported Alternative Learning Centre (ALP), and share with community members, about how our actions like cutting of trees, instead of growing these, and emitting harmful smoke and gases are contributing to climate change.'



DRR AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING IN PROGRESS IN PANJGUR DISTRICT. DRR TRAININGS IN LORALAI, PANJGUR AND KOHLU DISTRICTS FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DRR NEXUS."

Raj encourages her students to engage in group activities and creating artworks on climate change issues, for developing their understanding. They discuss the locally experienced climate related issues, like changing seasons in Panjgur district, disasters like floods, lowering underground water tables, dried out water ponds, droughts and decrease in crop production, which are the result of the hazardous activities of human beings.

Raj believes that informed and aware children and communities can effectively respond to climate change, through mitigation, resilience and adaptation. 'We have to reduce the increasing

carbon emissions, for our survival and growth. Teachers must prioritise climate change awareness in schools for effective, impactful climate change response. Action at all levels is the key. We must change to change the world' she emphasises.

According to her, those big changes in lifestyle and approach, like walking and using a bicycle, and not burning wastes, really make the difference.

Thank you ECW for supporting education of the vulnerable children and adolescents affected by climate hazards in Balochistan, and focusing on climate change through 'Right Here, Right Now' emergency Climate Appeal for delivering quality education to children in crisis.

"I recall that horrible day, while learning about climate change and drawing sketch of carbon footprint. That day of heavy rainfall in our locality Sarawan Khuda Badan, a few years ago in Panjgur, when water of the flooded Nivan Kor river entered our home and washed away everything. We could hardly save our lives by rushing out in



HUMA NAEEM, A FLOOD AFFECTED STUDENT SKETCHING CARBON FOOTPRINT IN ALP CENTRE, GGPS DHAL NIAZABAD, PANJGUR DISTRICT.

time. Nivan destroyed our crops. My father was a farmer, and we were poor. Flood made us poorer. I was grade three student then, and liked learning. I had to quit my studies because of poverty. We had to migrate locally, a few kilometres away. ECW Multi-Year Resilience Programme community resource persons and team convinced my parents to enrol out-of-school children like me in the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) centre established by them. We received school bags and books and stationery items, and our great ALP teacher Raj Gul. Here we will complete the five-year primary course in just three years. Who can know better than me that climate change is real. It washes homes and hopes without mercy. We can together fight climate change and rising temperatures by doing climate friendly actions."

Huma Naeem, ALP Student at Government Girls' Dhal Niazabad, Sarawan, Khuda Badan, District Panjgur, Balochistan - Pakistan."



RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK

3rd Floor, IRM Complex, Plot # 7, Sunrise Avenue, Park Road, Near COMSATS University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Phone: 92-51-8491270-99 Email: info@rspn.org.pk URL: www.rspn.org



RSPNPakistan



RSPNPakistan