



EUROPEAN UNION



## PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION IN SINDH

In support of the Accelerated Action Plan, Government of Sindh

# THE PINS PULSE

November 2019

The European Union-funded Programme for Improved Nutrition (PINS) aims to sustainably improve the nutritional status of children under five (U5) and of pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Sindh through nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions while capacitating the Government of Sindh so that it may efficiently implement its multi-sectoral nutrition policy.

### PINS to Deliver Sensitization Trainings on Nutrition to Incorporate Gender Approach under AAP

After a series of discussions and consultations with the Women Development Department, PINS 1 will be conducting trainings to capacitate officials of the Department as well as the faculty of public sector women colleges and universities on nutrition. The trained officials including the district based ones, will be equipped to provide inputs through the gender lens, with the district officials of the relevant line departments and at other forums such as the District/Taluka Coordination Committee on Nutrition and for enhancing the role of the women across the interventions. These trainings will also help in integrating and maximizing community outreach, increase collaboration for better access to health care centers, and will encourage skills like kitchen gardening, poultry and livestock breeding deemed essential for reduction of malnutrition and stunting.

### Installation and Rehabilitation of Communal Drinking Water Sources



PINS is working on installing and rehabilitating communal hand pumps and small water supply schemes in marginalized villages to increase the access to safe drinking water. These community physical infrastructure schemes (CPIs) will be partially funded by the LSOs, either in the form of labour or funds, to ensure continued ownership, use and maintenance after installation. So far, 26 of these schemes have been approved across programme districts, with field engineers trained by PINS providing technical support for installation as per

approved design and conducting water testing before and after installation.

### PINS runs Pilots on Wheat Bio-fortification and Paddy Fish Farming

Two pilot initiatives under the nutrition-sensitive component – Bio-fortification and Paddy Fish Farming, have been completed. 10 demonstration plots (of 10 acres each) of Zinc-fortified wheat crops were sowed using Zincole seed which will be harvested in March 2020. Similarly, 20 demonstration plots on paddy fish farming across Thatta, Sujawal, Dadu and Sikarpur were harvested. This is being followed by a technical survey currently underway to analyse community acceptability.



### Pilot Test of SBCC Toolkit to Assess Its Relevance and Effectiveness

PINS pilot-tested the Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) toolkit for the nutrition-specific component at Village Organisation Sonu Khan Khushk, District Matiari on 5 November 2019. The participants included community health workers (CHWs), community health supervisors (CHS) and women from the targeted community. In addition, representatives of the Core Communications Group (CCG) of Accelerated Action Plan Task Force Secretariat (AAP TFS), Nutrition Support Program (NSP), Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) proactively participated in the pilot test session and provided constructive feedback to increase the toolkit's effectiveness which has been incorporated in the final version.



## PINS to Propose Budget Guideline to Government of Sindh for Sustaining NSC/OTP Sites

PINS would be proposing a budget guideline/budget plan, to the Government of Sindh in order to sustain the Nutrition Stabilization Centers (NSC) and the Out-Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) sites- two critical healthcare centers for the treatment of malnutrition. The exercise involves visits to the various centers in Sindh and meetings with relevant stakeholders. After assessments and careful consideration of the factors a budget guideline/budget plan would be proposed to the GoS for the inclusion in Sindh's health expense. The exercise is led by the Senior Key Advisor - Nutrition Specific, Dr. Zahra Ladhani along with Senior Consultant on Public Health, Dr. Ashar Malik who have visited several centres to help estimate the costs involved in maintaining these sites.



## 5-Days Training on Inpatient Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition at Nutrition Stabilization Center



PINS organized a weeklong training on Inpatient Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition at Nutrition Stabilization Center (NSC) for staff members of NSCs at Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU)/Chandka Medical College (CMC) Larkana from 25-29 November 2019. The training was based on the World Health Organisation's guideline manual on inpatient management of severe acute malnutrition. Participants also spent a day in the NSC ward for a practical understanding of the treatment and were appreciated in the closing ceremony by Dr. MB Raja Dharejo, Programme Manager - Accelerated Action Plan, Government of Sindh.

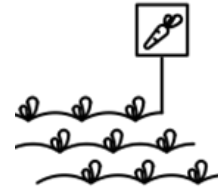
## Deliberation on Policy, Strategy and Governance Frameworks, related to Nutrition Management and Coordination

PINS deliberated on the policy/strategic and governance framework in place and towards a more responsive management and M&E structure for sustaining the interventions under AAP with the Chairperson, P&D Board. It will develop and present a paper with recommendations on a medium to long term basis with the focus to sustain reforms. PINS has also deliberated with the Urban Policy and Strategic Planning Unit of the P&D Board, for providing support on WASH with a focus on urban slums as part of their efforts/mandate to develop strategic policy and plans for Urban Development. Likewise, efforts are afoot for a more institutionalized approach on imparting trainings, and on a sustained/long term basis rather than doing various 'one-offs' and for this, discussions were held with the Secretary to GoS for Training, Management and Research Wing, SGA&CD.

## Implementation Updates – November 2019



**19,818**  
Households cultivating kitchen gardens



**12,695**  
Households given seeds for the Rabi season



**124** Members of District ODF Certification Committees trained on the ODF certification and monitoring process



**76** Low-cost disaster-resilient latrines constructed



**743** Pregnant and lactating women (in the 0 – 12 PSC range) given grants to purchase goats



**21** Village Organisations certified open defecation free



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