

# Notes from the field

YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO THE NUTRITION-SENSITIVE SIDE OF PINS

## PINS Celebrates World Environment Day!

On June 5, Pakistan hosted the 2021 World Environment Day, recognising its ambitious environmental efforts through the Green Pakistan Programme (GPP)/10 Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTP). Rural and urban communities across Pakistan celebrated the day with tree plantation in their homes and public places such as schools, colleges, hospitals, offices, parks and green belts.

We at PINS ER-3 are proud to be collaborating with the GPP/TBTP. Supported by the Government of Sindh Forest Department, we have begun work to establish a network of nurseries across our 1,938 village-level Farmer Field Schools, to produce and distribute saplings for fruit and moringa trees. Through these nurseries, communities working with PINS will plant at least 1,000,000 trees in their homes and villages.

On World Environment Day, our communities across the 10 Programme districts got together to celebrate and discuss why planting trees and taking care of them is necessary to protect our ecosystems as we strive for a healthier future. They also planted over 5,000 fruit and Moringa trees to reaffirm our commitment to achieving greener spaces for the present and the generations to come.

[Click here to see highlights video](#)



chemically contaminated and communities have struggled for years. To remedy this, PINS has introduced various alternate water schemes including building new hand pumps or solar-powered water pumps connecting them to the nearest possible uncontaminated locations. Similarly, it has designed water transportation initiatives where there were no viable local schemes to draw ground water from. As a result, nearly 15,000 households now have access to safe drinking water across the 10 districts.

Residents in VO Muhammad Khan Thaheem have struggled with hard brackish water from their local water sources that they have realised has been contributing to illness, especially among the younger children. Soomri grimaces as she explains how that meant walking 5 kilometres every day to fetch 2 gallons of water which ate away so much of her time during the day and left her with often excruciating back ache.



The Programme worked with LSO Sheikh Bhirkhiyo which VO Mohammad Khan Taheem is a part of to establish a water transportation scheme. With a grant of PKR 148,000 from PINS, the LSO and VO procured a carriage tricycle. They also selected Hemen, a 21-year-old labourer from the village to fetch water for the village. Every day, he makes two trips to fill water cans like the ones that Soomri used from a hand pump that was tested and declared safe.

60 women use Hemen's services to get safe drinking water who charges them PKR 10 for each can – this rate was decided in agreement with the LSO and covers his fuel and labour cost as well as repairs and maintenance for the vehicle. Soomri, echoes several women,

“

*I don't have to worry about collecting water because I can now get it at my doorstep. I am able to spend more time with my children without worrying about the water and it feels like a dream.*

”

Hemen is also happy to be a part of this scheme. He was previously earning PKR 200 in daily wages, working in a landlord's field but was rarely paid on time. He is grateful to have a platforms such as the VO meetings where he can market his services to the community and have any concerns about them shared and resolved. But most of all, to him, this is a way for him to serve his community which fuels his commitment to keep it going.

## The People of PINS

Soomri, like most women in VO Muhammad Khan Thaheem, walked 5 kilometres to collect water from the communal hand pump for her family. In our baseline study, we found that in 77% of households covered under PINS, women were solely responsible for collecting water and that only 69% of households had access to safe drinking water. For many, there were simply no locally accessible water sources or that those that were close enough had unsafe levels of chemicals and/or biological contaminants.

To overcome this, the Programme has focused on improving access to safe drinking water by providing households with local, accessible and safe water sources. It has also been actively been working with the local support organizations and village organisations to treat the sources of biological contamination in available local sources, or by building new local water supply schemes.

In some areas, however, local safe sources cannot be built because the groundwater is





## Refresher Trainings Held to Strengthen Social Norms and Sustaining Open Defecation Free Status



A series of refresher trainings were held for our partner RSPs on key WASH concepts and its implementation in PINS. The trainings also focused on fostering and strengthening social norms around better water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) that are pivotal in achieving and sustaining ODF sustainability strengthening the coordination between Community Resource Persons and Village Organisations under their purview. Similarly, the sessions also emphasised the importance of developing and using Village Action Plans to drive and monitor progress and improve coordination between the field staff and the Village Organisations.

The training content was delivered through variety of methods: group work, role-playing, presentations, and field-level demonstration sessions. The last day was spent conducting practical demonstration with VOs on Community Led Total Sanitation/ Triggering and Pakistan Approach for Total Sanitation (PATs) approach for sensitising these communities that every household uses a latrine with privacy, and that it is wrong to defecate in the open. The participating community members developed Village Action Plans for constructing latrines with the available low-cost disaster resilient models and ensure its usage and maintenance.



The participants were also oriented on the proper use Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) as well as understand the steps for quality assurance of these sessions.

## Digital Toolkit on Improved Rice Production Launched

Rice is widely cultivated by PINS communities and a staple in their diets. Over the Programme run, we have worked with smallholder rice farmers on orienting them on improved methods of crop production to ensure higher yields and contribute towards our communities' food security. This is even more imperative given that Pakistan lags behind the international average for rice production at 60 maunds per acre coming in at a mere 30 maunds per acre.

This year, we produced a three-session digital toolkit on improved crop production methods that covers all the important aspects of cultivating, harvesting and storing rice aimed at a wider reach and moving visuals to break the clutter and improve retention. The toolkit is also available on YouTube, which allows it to be shared with smartphones and can be viewed at any time.

So far, 4,080 farmers across the Programme districts have been oriented and have participated in the the first session focusing on selecting the right seed and successfully raising and transplanting a nursery using different methods.



Check out the English version here and let us know what you think!



## What We're Cooking Up Next

- Given that PINS ER-3 has been approved for a no-cost extension, a progress review and planning meeting is slated in July for our partners to collaborate and develop comprehensive detailed implementation and financial spending plans to achieve the results. This meeting will also serve as an opportunity to identify and consolidate the barriers and constraints in the past years to determine the improvements that can be made during the extension period.
- A workshop is scheduled in the coming month to develop the scale-up strategy for the pilots under PINS ER-3 given their completion and subsequent unplanned/organic replication. The workshop will also focus on data generation, analysis and its dissemination, particularly externally for others to take up beyond the Programme's run.

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