

Gulshan's Story

(From NasirabadKech district in Balochistan)

In 2014, Gulshan was left devastated when she lost her husband, the only breadwinner of the family, due to hepatitis. Shattered by the shock and with the responsibility of feeding the three children her husband had left her, Gulshan tried every possible way to make the ends meet but they were merely forlorn attempts to escape poverty. She would do embroidery work, but she seldom received an order. When hunger hit the family, she, along with her kids, left their house and moved in her brother's, who made it possible to feed the family. Her brother was a tailor working for villager, who owned stitching machines and a shop. Her brother, Rahamdil, says, "I used to earn PKR 1500 per month and this amount was not sufficient to fulfill all needs, but we tried to meet the ends."

The family's fate changed for better when Gulshan received a grant of PKR 33,400 and supported her brother in opening a tailoring shop. She reminisces, "I had joined the community organisation in 2017 as all women in Balochi Bazar ward [a village in union council Nasirabad] get together for meetings. In one of the meetings, I was told that I am eligible to receive a grant. I asked my brother to use the grant as he is the sole bread winner of the family."

With the income generating grant, Rahemdil also received an enterprise development training by NRSP, where he learned about business management and profit making. He said, "this training did not only improve my business skills but also motivated me to do better in life." Soon after the training, he purchased a sewing machine, a solar panel to produce electricity, and an electric motor to efficiently stitch dresses. He installed his machine and solar plate in a rented shop in the market in Nasirabad union council. He stitches men's shalwarkameez and school uniforms for students. His monthly income has increased from PKR 1,500 per month to PKR 20,000 per month. He has also hired a helper in his shop as he receives orders in bulk. Today, the family have a shelter to live, food to eat and clothes to wear. Gulshan's children are enrolled in the school. Her eldest daughter studies in grade 11 and her two sons are in class 7 and 6. Rahemdil pays the children's educational expenses happily and he is thankful to his sister and NRSP for providing him a sustainable source of income.

