

# Notes from the field

YOUR GUIDE TO THE NUTRITION-SENSITIVE SIDE OF PINS

## *PINS Collaborates with the Livestock Department, Government of Sindh to Strengthen its CLEW Model*

The PINS ER-3 team conducted a consultative workshop on 4th October with the Director at the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Government of Sindh and Deputy Directors - Livestock Department to discuss the scope of work for livestock extension services in the next year including issues & challenges faced so far. The meeting also focused on developing a re-engagement strategy for CLEWs to develop a sustainable model beyond the Programme run and explore potential opportunities as a cadre of accountable private sector service providers.



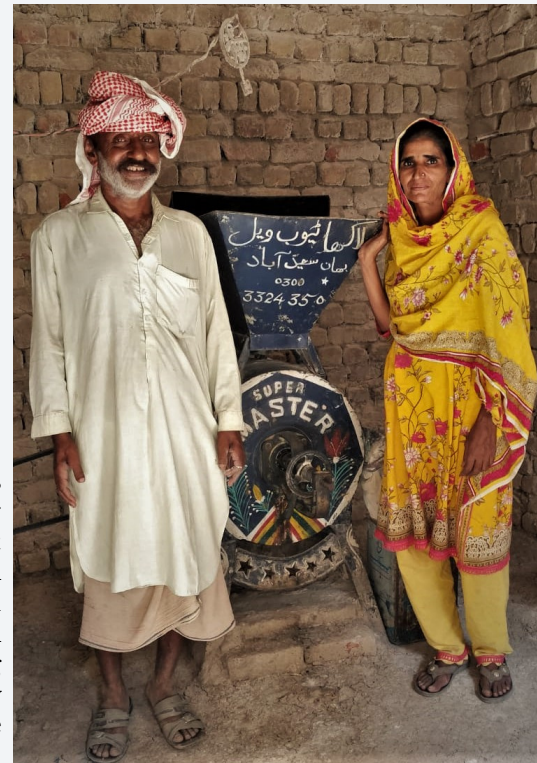
Following this, members of the PMU also led a series of district-level workshops to have a district-wise lens on the re-engagement strategy for CLEWs including more seamless supply for vaccines. These workshops also focused on preparing for the refresher trainings, including the curriculum, which would be conducted at the start of 2022 in collaboration with the District Livestock Authorities.

## *The People of PINS*

Irshad claims that she makes the best roti in her family. Her secret? 'I grind my own flour that I know what makes the best roti!'

Irshad has been running a flour mill with her husband Waheed for the past 2 years. They built an extension at their house consisting of two rooms, one where they keep the mill and the other, where they store the grain and the packaged flour.

*'We sell to around 50 homes and we try to keep the rate less than the market. This has helped grow our customers who used to travel to the market to buy flour, often at much higher rates than what we charge and recommend us to people to come and buy from.'*



Waheed, also a wheat farmer has worked hard on developing linkages with smallholder wheat farmers to buy grain from them so that they have an uninterrupted supply of grain that that can meet their growing demand. He and Irshad diligently maintain their records and have built a strong reputation.

With Waheed busy in the fields most of the day, Irshad not only operates the mill but has also learnt how to maintain it, and has repaired the fusebox multiple times. 'My brother in law is an electrician so he taught me the basics so that I don't have to wait around for anyone.'

Irshad is one of PINS ER-3's 62 Female Agriculture Entrepreneurs who were chosen and given a grant between PKR 30,000 to 50,000 to run an enterprise that is contributing to their community's nutrition. She currently makes anywhere between PKR 20,000 to 32,000 that she puts towards supporting her family. With the grant, she hopes to invest in solar panels and modify the machine to given an even better grind for a better product.



### Celebrations Galore!

There's nothing more than we love than celebrating and celebrate we did! Our communities across 55 UCs got together to commemorate Global Handwashing Day on 15th October and discussed the importance of washing hands, especially in the midst of a global pandemic. The theme, Our Future is at Hand – Let's Move Forward Together, was the focus of the events which made sure to involve children so that they could model good behaviours for their peers.



On 19th November, 70 UCs also celebrated World Toilet Day and gathered to reflect about their journey towards becoming open defecation free and what all they need to go for others to get there. The discussions around the theme Valuing Toilets covered how toilets did not just save lives by helping the spread of contamination but is necessary to ensure dignity for all. Many of the celebrations were marked with distribution of funds to poor households to build latrines and help their communities get one step closer to being certified open defecation free.

### PINS Hosts Mr. Carlo De Rosa



Our teams in Tando Muhammad Khan and Jamshoro hosted Mr. Carlo De Rosa, the Project Officer - Rural Development and Nutrition with the European Union Delegation to Pakistan in November. During his visit, Programme Affiliates such as Community Resource Persons and Agriculture Entrepreneurs also presented their work and the progress they've made in areas such as their VOs being certified open defecation free.

Mr. De Rosa also interacted with PINS communities who spoke of their experiences with the Programme and the impact of different interventions such as the water transportation schemes have had on their daily lives and what it means for them over the long term. They expressed their gratitude to the EU and PINS for enhancing their knowledge about nutrition and supporting them to participate in initiatives as a community united towards their common goal of achieving better nutrition for their families.

### CNOs Step Away from the Field to Focus on their Development

Our Community Nutrition Officers (CNOs) are a vital resource for the Programme and its seamless implementation that they ensure through a strong rapport with the community and on-ground support across multiple interventions. We decided to gather 62 of them together for a 3-day retreat in Karachi where they would have a chance to reflect on their work so far and participate in activities aimed at strengthening crucial life skills such as communication, teamwork and leadership.



The first day focused on reflecting on their current role and responsibilities and how they could better perform some of the key activities that the Programme is leveraged upon such as the community awareness sessions. This was largely led by Manager – Special Projects, Bashir Anjum, who held an interactive discussion with the CNOs on how they could strengthen the behavior change component of PINS ER-3.

The second and third day were packed full of team building exercises and activities meant for our CNOs to communicate better with the communities and their teams, boost their productivity and enhance their time management and organizational skills.



The retreat, organised by Zaheer Ahmed, the Capacity Building Officer for PINS ER-3, was received well by its participants who appreciated having some time to focus on their personal and professional development away from the field through different activities, many of them designed to help them connect better with the communities under their purview.



## Consultation Meeting Held with the Agriculture Extension Department, Government of Sindh

PINS ER-3 led a meeting with the Agriculture Extension Department, Government of Sindh on 4th November to discuss on-going agriculture interventions and build meaningful linkages for more impactful implementation.

Our team was also given an overview of the Department's function and current activities by its Planning and Progressive Officer, Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Bughio. He also went through the types of trainings led by the Department and extension services such as crop clinics and helplines. A significant point of discussion was PINS ER-3's pilot projects which rely on inputs that are often hard to source, such as bio-fortified wheat seed.

Given that most of the officers from the Department were aware of these pilots and its impact, it was mutually agreed to increase communication between the Programme and them to share results and lessons to sustain efforts to improve nutrition in the region.

## 2-Day Reflection Visit Conducted in Shikarpur

The PINS ER-3 team conducted a two-day visit with Line Department Officials and members of the District Office in Shikarpur, including Dr. Kashif Khuhro, the District Commissioner. The first day was spent observing Programme activities underway including one of PINS' community-managed fish ponds in Shikarpur being harvested. A session was also held with the community where the VO President presented their achievements under PINS ER-3 and they reflected together on how they had taken collective action to improve nutrition.



The second day focused on meetings with officials from the Livestock, Public Health Engineering, Forestry and Agriculture to discuss areas of collaboration and support to ensure sustainability beyond the Programme run. Some of the agenda points discussed were:

- Supporting curriculum development for the upcoming CLEW workshops
- Collaborating with the PHED to model a communal waste water management system, such as those under the Orangi Pilot Project
- Supporting the upcoming plantation drive with regards to transport and troubleshooting issues with low survival rates
- Conducting workshops for Agriculture Entrepreneurs to boost kitchen garden cultivation

## Exploring Waste Water Management with Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Sindh

Members of the PMU held a meeting with the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) to explore waste water management systems in Programme districts including criteria for potential sites where they could be implemented.

The meeting started with current examples of waste water management that PINS ER-3 has looked into extensively including the Orangi Pilot Project and discussed the opportunities and challenges with each system. The meeting also focused on PHED's mandate in detail to understand what areas PINS could collaborate on with them, especially with regards to the sanitation schemes PINS is exploring into for each of its districts.



It was decided that PINS will share potential sites with the PHED in January including details on household composition. The PHED will also be kept in the loop and invited to visits concerning the sanitation schemes to better evaluate feasibility of shortlisted VOs.



## What We're Cooking Up Next

- PINS ER-3 will be conducting reflection visits and meetings with members of Line Departments, GoS, similar to Shikarpur across the rest of its Programme districts in the coming months
- Refresher trainings in collaboration with the Livestock Department for CLEWs are slated to begin in January
- Preparations are in full swing for the next round of community-wide moringa plantation



'This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Rural Support Programmes Network (RPSN) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union'



PINS is funded by the European Union

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