

Flood-resilient housing in Matiari

Harchand's new home

Harchand, a differently-abled man from Matiari, Sindh, struggled to support his large family with limited income. In August 2022, flash floods destroyed his mud house, forcing the family to live on an elevated road for two months, where they faced disease and hardship.

The National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), with support from the Sindh People's Housing for Floods Affectees (SPHF), identified Harchand as a beneficiary for home reconstruction. The NRSP team ensured the new house was resilient against future disasters.

The completed home brought stability and relief to Harchand's family, highlighting the critical role of support and resilient construction in disaster recovery.



Indigenous nature-based solutions in Balochistan



An integrated approach

In Balochistan, water scarcity is a major barrier to sustainable agriculture, impacting both livestock and crop production. Poor water availability has degraded agricultural lands and worsened living conditions, with dry spells and flash floods further straining rural communities.

The Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) is improving local livelihoods through community-led water management initiatives. These include water conservation, recharge structures, and better management practices.

BRSP has trained community members, completed irrigation schemes, rehabilitated Karez systems, installed solar pumps, and established poly tunnels to support water-insecure areas across the province.



93,000

Trained community members



143

Karez water systems



729

Irrigation systems



132

Solar pumps



Community-led erosion control in Umerkot



Nabiyat takes initiative

Nabiyat from Lalbah village in Umerkot district leads sessions on land erosion prevention.

Fifteen years ago, with support from the Thardeep Rural Development Programme, women in her village began planting and protecting local plants on sand dunes affected by erosion. To stabilize the shifting sand, they moved cattle barns to the area, using natural fertilizer from the cattle to help the plants grow.

Today, the sand dunes around the village are green. Nabiyat now leads a campaign to plant 300,000 plants this monsoon, aiming to expand the green landscape.

TRDP and FAO Pakistan support the community in this effort.



Climate-smart agriculture in Sindh



Prioritising sustainability

The Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) has advanced climate-resilient agriculture in Sindh, emphasizing women's empowerment and food security. Through utilising community institutions, landless households were trained in homestead gardening and small-scale farming, and Farmer Field Schools were established to enhance agricultural practices.

Women's Community Organisations played a key role, fostering female entrepreneurship in agriculture. Goats and poultry were also provided alongside training on sustainable livestock and poultry management.

This was made possible through the support of the European Union.



226,408

households trained on kitchen gardening



44,066

farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture



17,170

women provided with funds to buy goats



1,938

Farmer Field Schools established

International Ashden Awards winners



Recognition of innovation

The RSPs have implemented micro hydropower schemes in the Northern region of Pakistan, amounting to 811 in number.

These interventions have empowered off-grid local communities, improving access to electricity, boosting local economies and introducing new technologies - all using a community-led approach.

In recognition of these innovations, two RSPs have also won the prestigious International Ashden Award.

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme won the Ashden International Award in 2004, while Sarhad Rural Support Programme won the Ashden International Award in 2015.



2023 Energy Globe Award winner



Sustainable electrification

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) won the 2023 Energy Globe Award for its rural electrification project in Chitral, Pakistan.

Out of 2,500 global submissions, AKRSP was recognized for installing two micro hydropower units in Yarkhun and Laspur valleys, providing electricity to over 3,000 households.

In total, AKRSP has built 148 hydropower plants in Chitral, supplying electricity to over 49% of the population in this remote, off-grid region. This has benefitted children and women especially.

According to one community member, “women now have less workload and children can focus on their studies, especially girls”.

