

Compiled by RDF Quality and Research Unit

Quarterly Highlights

“Earth, pale blue dot, we will fail you not!”
International Online Youth Conference on Climate Change

Lecture on Poverty Alleviation Challenges and Opportunities for the Resource Poor of Sindh

Launch of GRASP Program’s Output 2.2 and 2.4

Country Director WHH Ms. Aisha Jamshed visited the RDF Head Office

PCP delegation visited RDF

PPAF’s Due Diligence Visit to RDF

Signing Letter of Understanding with District Health Department and IHS Sanghar

Bakery Training and Market Exposure Visit of Women

Women Entrepreneurs training on Digital Marketing and linkages development meeting with MFIs

A consultative dialogue held with female community livestock extension workers

Visit of GRASP ITC Team to Farming Communities in Thatta

Inter-village exposure visits of community

Religious Leader’s inclusion in Hygiene Promotion

Construction of flood resilient Solar-Powered Water Supply Scheme in Sanghar

Demonstration of Low-Cost Sanitation Facilities with Component Sharing Model

Awareness session on Homemade Nutritious Food Preparation and Health Care

Awareness Sessions on COVID-19 prevention and vaccination

One Day Education Promoting Seminar in Tando Adam

Awareness session on livestock management

Teacher’s Training and Provision of Learning material and Missing Facilities in Schools

Survey on Seed Preservation Practices

International Online Youth Conference on Climate Change

“Earth, pale blue dot, we will fail you not!” was the theme of 7 days long Kindernothilfe International Youth Conference, virtually held from 24th September to 8th October 2021. RDF was Co-organizer of this event and it was the first time that young members of RDF’s environment clubs of Sanghar and Tharparker gained an international exposure and got an opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with the youth of Germany, South Africa and Austria. Pakistani participants contributed to their fullest and provided a creative impetus against climate change in three amazing workshops: Lyrical lyrics video workshop, song workshop and game and discussions. The “Climate Change Song” with a unique combination of the lyrics in Zulu, German, Urdu and Sindhi languages was created with the joint contribution of participants from Pakistan, Germany and South Africa during online International Youth Conference 2021.



Lecture on Poverty Alleviation Challenges and Opportunities for the Resource Poor of Sindh

RDF successfully held a lecture on “Poverty Alleviation Challenges and opportunities for Resource Poor of Sindh”, at Hyderabad on 26th August 2021, delivered by renowned economist and policy advisor, **Dr. Kaiser Bengali**. The event was attended by more than 70 academicians, civil society representatives, media persons and students. Dr. Kaiser elaborated key aspects of poverty and focused on alleviating poverty through strategic ways. He emphasized on the need to establish Rural Growth Centres, through which resources can be consolidated to address the root causes of poverty. Participants asked various questions around poverty issues in Sindh, which the speaker responded. Later, Prof. **Dr. Ismail Kumbhar** concluded the event.



Launch of GRASP Program's Output 2.2 and 2.4

After successfully implementing ITC's GRASP Covid-19 Emergency Response in 2020, RDF and GRASP-ITC has extended cooperation to scale-up the project intervention in 12 districts of Sindh with a special focus on supporting women entrepreneurs, farmers, women led Business Support Organizations (BSO) and Local Support Organizations (LSO) to connect to markets and improve their productivity and entrepreneurial skills. The aim is to create gender-inclusive employment and income opportunities in the rural areas through targeted support to both public and private sectors.

For smooth initiation, a day long orientation workshop was conducted with project staff of RDF. Provincial Lead ITC, **Ms. Shabnam Baloch**, Gender Advisor ITC- **Dr. Sahar Gul** and **Mr. Mohsin Azam Soomro** oriented project staff.



Country Director WHH Ms. Aisha Jamshed visited the RDF Head Office

A team of Welthungerhilfe (WHH) led by Country Director **Ms. Aisha Jamshed** and Program Manager, Sindh **Mr. Sarwan Balouch** visited RDF Head Office Hyderabad on September 28, 2021. The Executive Director- **Ashfaque Ahmed Soomro** presented a brief overview of RDF's strategic priorities and significant achievements of WHH funded projects to the delegation and discussed future prospects. Later, the delegation met with different stakeholders including **Mr. Mustafa Ujjan**-General Manager SIDA, **Prof. Dr. M. Ismail Kumbhar**-SAU Tando Jam, **Prof. Dr. Rasool Bux Mahar**-Director USPCAS MUET Jamshoro, **Prof. Dr. Ghulam Ali Jariko**-University of Sindh and Deputy Director Agriculture in Sanghar. All the stakeholders discussed post-pandemic situation of food and nutrition security in Sindh.



PCP delegation visited RDF

Delegation of Pakistan center for Philanthropy (certification authority) visited RDF Head office, field office and project villages of Tando Allahyar on 15th September 2021 to observe quality work of RDF, governance, transparency, effectiveness of project implementation and positive impacts on community. Delegates met with the members of self help groups and had a dialogue with them.

PPAF's Due Diligence Visit to RDF

PPAF delegation had a due diligence visit of RDF on 9th September 2021 to meet RDF team at Hyderabad and field areas in Tando Allahyar. Executive Director RDF- **Mr. Ashfaque Ahmed Soomro** welcomed the delegation of PPAF and conducted the meeting with them. **Mr. Ashfaque** delivered a presentation and briefed about the organization's goals, achievements and strategic priorities. PPAF delegation also visited the village Began Jarwar in District Tando Allahyar and interacted with women of self help groups. The members of Cluster Level Association briefed them about their work and self-initiated activities such as; market linkages, business goals and women led enterprises. The delegation shared their observations and feedback about the RDF policies, system and strategies that they observed during the visit.



Signing Letter of Understanding with District Health Department and IHS Sanghar

RDF signed the tri-party Letter of understanding with District Health Department of Sanghar and Integrated Health Services (IHS) on 13th July 2021. A letter of understanding was signed at District Health Office Sanghar by DHO **Dr. Amjad Khan**, District Manager HIS **Mr. Roshan Ali Panhwar**, and Program Manager RDF **Mr. Aftab Akhund**. Under this collaboration, RDF will improve three RHCs in the district and one Taluka Headquarter Hospital of Sinjhora, by providing waiting area facility, repair of WASH facilities and improvement of COVID-19 Vaccine rooms.



Participation in Condolence Reference of Late Mr. Anwar Ahmed, Ex KNH Program Coordinator

Executive Director RDF, **Mr. Ashfaque Ahmed** and Head of Finance, **Mr. Arshad** participated in a condolence reference of Ex KNH Program Coordinator **Mr. Anwar Ahmed**, organized by Kindernoithilfe at his birth place in Mansehra. **Mr. Anwar** was a kind and learned person who strived for child centered community development in Pakistan. He left this world on 14th July 2021 for eternal abode. May Allah bless him highest place in Jannah.



Bakery Training and Market Exposure Visit of Women

Women of Self-help groups (SHGs) of Tando Allahayar were given one month training on preparing bakery products. 18 trainees from 13 SHGs received the bakery training. Market exposure visits of trainees were also organized at Hyderabad where trainees got familiar with various bakery related items/accessories and their prices. One of the trainees also purchased electric oven from her savings. The trainees have also started establishing home-based bakeries and are earning through it.

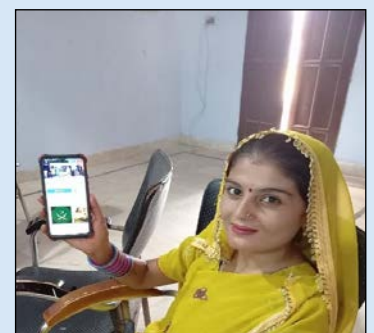


“I have attended one-month long bakery training along with 17 women participants in which we have learnt to prepare some bakery items including cakes and various types of biscuits. We are hopeful to earn good income by starting bakery business at village level. I'm very thankful to RDF for facilitating us with this wonderful training.”

Ghulam Sakina, SHG member and Bakery Trainee, Village Jalal Thebo

Women Entrepreneurs training on Digital Marketing and linkages development meeting with MFIs

20 women entrepreneurs of Tando Allahayar availed a training on Digital Marketing and met the micro finance institutions in Hyderabad. The trainees interacted with micro finance institutions and got familiarised with their process and products. Participants were also offered by TIME institute to sell their products on the TIME shops. Three micro finance institutions Khushhali bank, Finca microfinance bank limited and Thardeep shared their eligibility requirement, features and specification, business loan and other products and repayment options.



Visit of GRASP ITC Team to Farming Communities in Thatta

Gender Advisor GRASP, ITC **Dr. Sahar Gul Bhatti** and Communication lead **Ms. Alya** visited villages in Thatta to meet farming women and know their work. Cattlewomen of Thatta demonstrated the milk processing and production of milk by-products such as butter and ghee to the GRASP ITC team. Farming women demonstrated them the chilies and tomato seed preservation and processing method. The women also shared the process of transplantation of seedlings which they follow and use only healthy seedlings for cultivation for high quality crops which are then sold at good price.



"Since I grew up I saw myself as a farm girl, and throughout my life I lived like this—I know no other identity. Farming is in my soul; I cannot imagine a single day without seeing my land".
Buwa Lashari

A consultative dialogue held with female community livestock extension workers

RDF organized a consultative dialogue with female community livestock extension workers (CLEW), attended by total 14 women CLEWS. The agenda of the consultative dialogue was to discuss the options for establishing women-led livestock market in Tando Allahyar. Female CLEWS shared the need of business for women in livestock and showed willingness to set up women-based livestock mandi. RDF is taking an initiative of establishing livestock mandi for the women by the women in Tando Allahyar.



Inter-village exposure visits of community

RDF organized two inter-village exposure visits of communities of Tharparker to learn from best practices of fellow communities through an open exchange of ideas, knowledge, and sound practices. During the exposure visit, 14 community members got an opportunity to observe and learn several community-based interventions related to participatory management of agriculture, innovative practices of climate smart agriculture, community development, community engagement in forestry and agriculture activities.



Religious Leader's inclusion in Hygiene Promotion

Three one-day trainings of religious leaders were organized to promote their inclusion in Hygiene promotion, under "Climate Resilient CR-WASH" project, Sangahr, wherein a total of 70 Muslim religious leaders participated. Through this training, the importance of WASH was highlighted in the light of the Quran and the Sunnah. An action plan was also prepared to create awareness among communities through their actions and sermons.



Construction of flood resilient Solar Powered Water Supply Scheme in Sanghar

To address the issue of utilization of un-fit water in Sanghar, a solar powered water supply scheme was installed through 1500 feet lead line in village Habib Bhambhro, Taluka Sinjhor, District Sanghar, under “Climate Resilient CR-WASH” project. The scheme has the water storage capacity of 6797 liters once in every 4 hours a day and can facilitate 447 individuals of 88 families. RDF has designed a gravity flow water system and has ensured the equitable and easy access to basic drinking water through two water collection points at cluster level. RDF technicians ensured the appropriate flow of water to end-users and check the flow of water twice a week.



Demonstration of Low-Cost Sanitation Facilities with Component Sharing Model

RDF has introduced a low-cost pour-flush latrine on a component sharing basis under “Climate Resilient CR-WASH” project in Sanghar to minimize open defecation practices in project area. So far 200 sanitation facilities have been constructed benefiting 2506 individuals from 425 families of vulnerable communities.

Awareness session on Homemade Nutritious Food Preparation and Health Care

An awareness session was conducted with 25 Self Help Groups and Cluster Level Association members in Tando Adam, District Sanghar. In session, women were educated about nutrition, homemade nutritious food preparation and proper health care. They were sensitized on the importance of 1000 days window of opportunity, which is a crucial time for child when child’s brain begins to grow and develop and when the foundations for their lifelong health are built.

Awareness Sessions on COVID-19 prevention and vaccination

RDF conducted 32 sessions with 680 people to spread awareness regarding COVID-19 prevention and its vaccination. Resultantly, 4750 individuals got vaccinated with the support of PPHI.



One Day Education Promoting Seminar in Tando Adam

Educational Seminar was organized in Tando Adam, District Sanghar on 3rd July 2021 to promote enrollment of girls and reduce children’s drop out. It also involved media to promote the cause of education and bringing in missing services especially teacher’s unavailability in schools and the opening of the closed schools.



Awareness session on livestock management

Effective management of livestock is crucial for momentous productivity gains and high profits.

Awareness session was conducted with community livestock workers in Tando Adam, in which best practices of livestock management, shed management, water management, health of animals, Silage making, haymaking, vaccination method was discussed in detail. More than 2200 animals were vaccinated by community livestock workers themselves.



Teacher's Training and Provision of Learning material and Missing Facilities in Schools

22 teachers from targeted schools were provided with 5 days pedagogical training on content delivery under “Children’s Hope” project, District Sanghar. The training also focused on professional development with a positive attitude towards learning, building confidence and working collaboratively with students beyond the classroom. Learning material and safety kits were also provided to all targeted schools. Child friendly spaces were also established in schools along with installation of playground accessories in schools to provide a joyful learning environment to children. The missing facilities were also provided in 10 schools. These missing facilities included rehabilitation of the WASH facilities, repair of classroom walls and school boundary walls, provision of the furniture and fixture.



Survey on Seed Preservation Practices

During this reporting quarter, a scientific survey on seed preservation practices was carried out together with International Rescue Committee (IRC) in district Umerkot. Survey was conducted through farmer interviews, key informant interviews with officials of Sindh Seed Corporation, Agriculture University Tando Jam and extension workers. The findings of the survey will be presented to stakeholders to make a plan to conserve local seeds.



Research and Development Foundation (RDF)

A.50, Sindhi Muslim Cooperative Housing Society Qasimabad Hyderabad
Tel: 92-22-2102702-3 Fax. 92-22-2102704
www.rdfoundation.org.pk