

National Recognition in Olive Value Chain Promotion



PPAF was honoured as the Best National Organisation for Promotion of the Olive Value Chain at the 7th National Olive Gala held in Islamabad. Selected from 141 stakeholders nationwide, this award marks PPAF’s third consecutive national recognition, highlighting its ongoing contribution to building resilient agri-value chains.

The three-day event, inaugurated by Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, featured exhibitions, expert sessions, product showcases, and knowledge exchanges focused on innovation, quality, and growth in Pakistan’s olive sector. PPAF’s implementing partners including BRSP, SRSP, and Taraqee Foundation along with community members set up interactive stalls that drew large crowds. The Minister visited the stalls and noted how local communities are benefiting from the initiative, improving livelihoods, and supporting the promotion of olive cultivation and the national economy.

At the inaugural ceremony, which brought together government officials, international delegates, development partners, farmers, and olive sector stakeholders, Mr. Arshad Rashid, Chief Programmes, PPAF, highlighted the organisation’s role in advancing Pakistan’s olive sector. He acknowledged the Italian Government’s support through AICS under the Programme for Poverty Reduction, particularly in establishing modern olive oil processing facilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, creating sustainable income opportunities, and strengthening the olive value chain nationwide.

The event reinforced the role of partnerships and community engagement in driving sustainable agriculture and economic resilience.



Advancing Inclusion in Balochistan



Guided by its commitment to inclusion, PPAF in partnership with the Social Welfare Department, Government of Balochistan, and in collaboration with Quetta Online Volunteers and The Special ONES marked the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Quetta through a high-profile, multi-stakeholder event. Held under the theme “Fostering Disability-Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress,” the event brought together government officials, development partners and civil society representatives to reflect on shared responsibility and collective action towards more equitable opportunities for persons with disabilities.



Discussions during the event emphasised on collaborative efforts required to expand access to education, employment and social protection systems. One of the key highlights was PPAF’s support to the Deaf Reach Centre of Excellence in Quetta, shared as a practical example of partnership in action. Through joint efforts of the Social Welfare Department, PPAF and FESF, the Centre is providing quality education, trained teachers, improved facilities and vocational opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing children.



Adding a personal and celebratory dimension, the event also recognised the talent and potential of persons with disabilities. Certificates and shields were presented to acknowledge individual achievements, reinforcing the message that inclusion is not only about access, but also about recognition and dignity.



Strengthening Disaster Preparedness in Schools



Four schools in Quetta became hubs of learning and preparedness as 225 students and teachers took part in School-Based Disaster Risk Management (SBDRM) training sessions. Through interactive lessons on disaster preparedness, climate change, hazard identification, early warning systems, evacuation planning, and basic first aid, participants gained practical knowledge and confidence to respond effectively during emergencies.

The learning was reinforced through hands-on mock drills that simulated real-life disaster scenarios. These exercises helped students and teachers translate theory into practice, strengthening their ability to act quickly and responsibly while fostering a culture of safety within school communities.

The SBDRM sessions were organised by the Center for Peace and Development (CPD), Balochistan, under the PPAF funded Restoring Social Services and Climate Resilience (RSS&CR) project. By strengthening disaster preparedness at the school level, the initiative is contributing to safer learning environments and building climate resilience among children, teachers, and communities in vulnerable areas.



Empowering Farmers with Climate-Smart Agriculture in AJK



As climate challenges reshape Pakistan’s agriculture landscape, PPAF is championing a shift towards climate-smart, opportunity-driven farming that strengthens resilience while unlocking untapped potential. Under its Local Area Development Programme in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, a Model Farm Demonstration organised by the project implementing partner BERD Foundation brought together expertise from agriculture and livestock departments to showcase how local climate conditions can be harnessed to grow the most suitable, high-value crops.

Reflecting PPAF’s commitment to inclusive development, both men and women farmers received hands-on training in land preparation, climate-resilient seeds, farm layout, machinery operation, smart irrigation, seedling trays, ridge preparation and crop value addition.

The impact of these interventions was further highlighted when a group of farmers visited PPAF’s Head Office and met with the CEO Mr. Nadir Gul Barech and Chief Programmes Mr. Arshad Rashid. During the interaction, farmers discussed the potential of cultivating innovative, non-traditional crops aligned with local environmental and climate conditions, with reference to the technical guidance available under the project. The exchange highlighted how climate-appropriate innovation can strengthen local agriculture, while the leadership shared perspectives on scaling up initiatives through innovation and value-driven expansion.

By matching farming practices with local climate conditions and introducing suitable new crops, these initiatives are helping farmers improve productivity, diversify income sources, and manage climate-related risks more effectively, supporting more sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.



Enhancing Access to Safe Drinking Water



Under the Restoring Social Services and Climate Resilience project, PPAF, in collaboration with AGAHE, has addressed a long-standing challenge for residents of Basti Killi Shahu in Mokal, Kasur: access to safe drinking water. For years, families depended on contaminated groundwater and unsafe local sources, exposing children and elderly residents to frequent waterborne illnesses. Daily activities such as cooking, cleaning, and drinking were disrupted, while school attendance and overall quality of life suffered. Many households were forced to travel long distances to fetch potable water, placing additional burdens on women and girls, who traditionally shoulder water collection responsibilities.

To tackle this, a community water filtration plant has been set up, providing a continuous supply of clean and safe drinking water. Local operators received technical training to ensure proper maintenance and sustainability, while community awareness sessions promoted safe water handling and hygiene practices.

The impact has been immediate and transformative. Residents now have reliable access to safe drinking water within their neighbourhood, reducing waterborne diseases and saving time previously spent collecting water. Improved health has led to better school attendance, while women and girls can focus more on education, household management, and income-generating activities.

Engagements for Peaceful Coexistence

Reflecting Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah’s vision of a Pakistan rooted in unity, respect for minorities, and interfaith harmony, PPAF continued its efforts to foster dialogue and peaceful coexistence through a series of inclusive engagements.

Under the PPAF Bridging Educational Polarisation for Social Harmony initiative, religious scholars from different faiths visited PPAF and engaged with leadership on the role of education, constructive engagement with policymakers, the importance of formal education and TVET opportunities for madrassah students in promoting social cohesion.

This commitment to mutual respect and shared values was also reflected in a Christmas engagement at PPAF’s Islamabad office, where faith and community representatives, including Archbishop Dr. Joseph Arshad, came together for dialogue centred on peace, dignity, and collective responsibility.

Building on the same principles, PPAF alongside Paigham-e-Pakistan, the Prime Minister’s Youth Programme, and the Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Balochistan organised a public engagement event in Quetta under the theme “Is Parcham Ke Saaye Tale Hum Aik Hain.” Marking Quaid-e-Azam’s legacy, the event highlighted unity, faith, and discipline while reinforcing civic responsibility and a shared national identity.



Exposure Visit for Chamalang Students

As part of the Chamalang Balochistan Education Programme (CBEP), a collaborative initiative of the PPAF and the Armed Forces of Pakistan, students from Chamalang recently undertook a five-day exposure visit to Islamabad and Murree. The visit offered a blend of educational and cultural experiences aimed at broadening horizons and fostering curiosity.

Students had the honour of meeting Ms. Wajiha Qamar, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, where they engaged in inspiring discussions on education, career opportunities, and the importance of lifelong learning. They also toured key institutions and landmarks, including PTV Headquarters, the National Assembly, Lok Virsa, and Islamabad College for Girls (F-6/2), gaining firsthand insight into national media, governance, and cultural heritage.

The visit was a transformative experience for these young minds, fostering inspiration, curiosity, and a deeper understanding of their country, while connecting them with new ideas and professional role models.



Stories from the Field

Resilience in Action: Lakki Marwat's Fight Against Floods

When torrential rains recently battered Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the people of Lakki Marwat braced themselves for familiar hardships: flooded streets, damaged homes, and sleepless nights. This time, however, the outcome was different. While neighbouring areas struggled under the monsoon's fury, the villages of Shahbaz Khel, Pezu, and Landiwa stood firm, protected by climate-resilient infrastructure built as part of the Integrated Area Upgradation Programme (IAUP) under the Livelihood Support & Promotion of Small Community Infrastructure Programme (LACIP)-II. This initiative, funded by BMZ through KfW, led by PPAF and implemented through its implementing partners, focuses on strengthening climate resilience in vulnerable communities.

In Dao Khel village of UC Landiwa, a newly constructed flood protection wall proved lifesaving. Erosion had once destroyed fertile land and forced families to leave their homes. As the rain poured and water levels rose, the wall held strong, safeguarding homes and fields. "We used to evacuate whenever heavy rain was forecast," said Muhammad Ashraf, a community member. "This time, our homes remained safe. For the first time, we slept without fear."

Resilience extended beyond flood barriers. All-weather link roads with proper stormwater drainage ensured safe mobility, while improved street pavements and modern sanitation systems efficiently channelled rainwater, reducing health risks and preventing property damage. The impact is tangible. Property losses have dropped, health risks have decreased, and families feel safer than ever.

To date, 33 of 70 planned IAUPs have been completed, benefiting over 100,000 people across Lakki Marwat, Tank, and Dera Ismail Khan demonstrating how collaborative, community-centred, climate-resilient infrastructure can safeguard homes, protect livelihoods, and enhance the well-being of future generations.



Stories from the Field

Turning Dreams into Enterprise: Qayam Uddin's Journey to Entrepreneurship

For many young Afghan scholars, turning education into a sustainable livelihood is a challenge. For Qayam Uddin, a DAFI scholar from the University of Malakand, the UNHCR-funded Poverty Graduation Programme (PGP), led by PPAF provided the skills, guidance, and confidence to turn ambition into action.

Through entrepreneurship training at leading institutions such as the National Science and Technology Park (NUST) and IMSciences Peshawar, Qayam and 115 other young entrepreneurs, including 19 women, gained hands-on experience in business strategy, financial planning, branding, and digital marketing. The training concluded with a business pitching session before industry experts, offering insights that helped refine their ideas.

Equipped with knowledge, mentorship, and confidence, Qayam took a bold step in 2024. With seed funding of PKR 400,000 provided under the Programme, he launched Stori Jewels, a startup specialising in handcrafted jewellery and locally sourced gemstones in Peshawar. Applying the skills learned during training, Qayam manages production, marketing, and operations, turning a dream into reality.

Since its launch, Stori Jewels has steadily grown, serving customers across Pakistan and internationally. Last year alone, the business generated approximately US\$5,000, more than triple the initial seed investment, demonstrating both financial success and an entrepreneurial mindset in action.

Beyond profits, Stori Jewels contributes to the local community by creating employment opportunities and promoting traditional handicrafts, helping preserve cultural heritage while fostering economic development.

Qayam Uddin's journey reflects the vision of the Poverty Graduation Programme: empowering vulnerable youth with skills, resources, and confidence to become self-reliant, building not just businesses, but futures.



Stories from the Field

Abida Parveen: Turning Determination into a Livelihood

Abida Parveen, a 38-year-old woman from Baseerpur, District Okara, stands as a compelling example of resilience and determination. Born with a physical disability that prevents her from walking, she refused to let her circumstances define her future. Living with her husband, a cobbler with limited and irregular income, and their two school-going children, Abida faced persistent challenges in meeting household needs and building a secure future for her family.

Her journey towards self-reliance began when she accessed interest free financing under the Government of Pakistan funded Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan Programme, implemented by PPAF through its civil society partner, Agahe Pakistan. In 2023, Abida availed her first interest free loan of PKR 50,000, enabling her to establish a small home-based grocery shop. This initiative allowed her to earn a sustainable income while working from home, well suited to her mobility limitations.

As the business grew and generated steady returns, Abida successfully repaid her first loan. Encouraged by the results, she accessed a second loan of PKR 55,000 in 2024. This support helped her expand her shop, strengthen inventory, and diversify products. In parallel, PPAF's capacity-building support to partner organisations enabled the rollout of Shariah-compliant financing, offering credit facilities of up to PKR 100,000. Through this initiative, Abida secured Shariah-compliant financing of PKR 95,000 from Agahe in 2025, further strengthening her enterprise and income-generating capacity.

Today, Abida earns PKR 20,000–25,000 per month, allowing her to meet household expenses, invest in essential appliances, and ensure quality education for her children. Her story demonstrates how financial inclusion and timely support can empower vulnerable individuals to build sustainable livelihoods and transform their lives.

