

National Conference on Youth Climate Policy & Governance



PPAF, in collaboration with YMSEDO, convened the National Conference on Youth Climate Policy & Governance in Islamabad, highlighting the need for stronger youth engagement in policy amid rising climate risks and a growing youth population.

The conference brought together young leaders from across Pakistan, including persons with disabilities, fostering inclusive dialogue on climate governance. For the first time in Pakistan, participants engaged in hands-on COP simulations at the provincial level, gaining practical exposure to climate negotiations and policymaking, and contributing to a Consolidated Youth Statement on Climate Action. This statement was formally submitted to parliamentarians, including Dr. Shaista Jadoon, MNA and Member of the Standing Committee on Climate Change, and Ms. Akhtar Bibi, MNA and Member of the Standing Committee on Planning and Economic Affairs.

The event also featured a high-level panel discussion where youth actively participated through questions and answers, sharing their perspectives and lived experiences. Speaking on the occasion, CEO PPAF, Mr. Nadir Gul Barech, emphasised that empowering youth voices in decision-making is essential for building inclusive and climate-resilient policies, reaffirming PPAF's commitment to supporting youth leadership. The strong participation reflected both the demand for and the value of creating structured pathways for youth to contribute to policy processes that directly affect their futures.



LACIP Virtual Monitoring for Enhanced Oversight



As part of its commitment to transparency and accountability, PPAF facilitated a remote monitoring mission in District D.I. Khan under the LACIP II, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through KfW.

Despite geographical and connectivity challenges, the mission enabled direct virtual engagement between KfW officials based in Germany and Islamabad and local communities, demonstrating how innovative approaches can extend oversight to even the most remote areas. The exercise focused on reviewing the progress of Integrated Area Upgradation Projects while strengthening direct engagement with communities.

The monitoring mission included a virtual visit to the Drinking Water Supply Scheme in Village Lunda Shareef, along with remote engagements with Village Organisation Tekan in UC Zandani and Village Organisation Cheragh in Basti Nizam Din, UC Yarik, enabling a review of project implementation and engagement with community institutions.

Communities and Village Organisation members demonstrated the formation of Village Organisations and the development of Village Development Plans based on local needs, particularly in infrastructure and skills development. At Village Organisation Cheragh, women beneficiaries showcased their products, reporting monthly incomes of PKR 25,000–30,000 along with increased participation in household decision-making.

Successfully executed with the joint support of PPAF and SRSP, the mission reinforced that transparent and adaptive monitoring approaches can strengthen community trust, ownership, and accountability, while delivering tangible socio-economic outcomes at the grassroots level.



Empowering Women Through Skills and Digital Inclusion: Progress Under the Ba-Ikhtiar Initiative



Advancing women's economic empowerment requires more than standalone efforts. In today's fast paced and digitally driven environment creating synergy among stakeholders with diverse expertise can be an ideal approach to achieve shared and sustainable outcomes.

The Ba-Ikhtiar Women Initiative, a collaborative effort between the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund and PTCL Group reflects this integrated approach. The programme has been making significant progress in equipping women through market-oriented vocational trainings across districts including Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Okara, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, and Quetta. These trainings are being delivered by the Institute of Rural Management. To date, 30 training batches have been initiated, with 10 successfully completed and 204 women having graduated. A further 452 participants are currently undergoing training, reflecting both the scale and continued momentum of the programme.

Participants are being trained in trades such as dress designing, hand embroidery, handicrafts, arts and crafts, culinary skills, cooking, and e-selling of cosmetic products. Upon completion of vocational training, participants will receive additional support through life skills education, career counselling, leadership development, decision-making, and gender-based violence (GBV) awareness sessions.

Capitalising on expertise of PTCL and Ufone, complementary support in form of financial literacy and inclusion training, facilitation of U Paise wallet accounts, distribution of smartphones with registered SIMs, one-year internet packages, and training in e-commerce and digital marketing are also being provided.

Looking ahead, the initiative aims to further expand digital opportunities through a planned partnership with Meta, which is expected to enhance participants' access to advanced digital skills and online market linkages.



Advancing a Sustainable Pathway by Restoring Livelihoods and Strengthening Balochistan's Livestock Sector



The EU-funded Post-Floods Resilient Recovery and Strengthening of the Livestock Sector in Balochistan Project marks a significant step towards restoring the province's rural economy. Implemented by PPAF through the Balochistan Rural Support Programme, the initiative focuses on revitalising livelihoods through livestock restocking for eligible members of Livestock Farmer Groups.

Under this intervention, flood-affected households received high-quality inseminated small ruminants, including goats and sheep, to help rebuild and strengthen their herds. In parallel, beneficiaries were supported in initiating small-scale enterprises within the livestock value chain, such as fodder storage, dairy production and processing, and other locally viable activities. This combined approach supports income diversification while strengthening capacities for improved productivity and longer-term economic stability.

Community engagement remained central to the process, with activities carried out across 16 Union Councils in the districts of Pishin, Loralai, Zhob, and Khuzdar. Efforts included income generation planning, targeted livestock distribution, and the implementation of an inspection mechanism covering more than 1,300 farming households. Field teams worked closely with communities to ensure a transparent and inclusive process.

The initiative supports households in restoring productive assets, strengthening livelihood opportunities, and contributing to local economies, while enhancing community capacity to better manage future climate-related shocks.

NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Advancing Inclusive Education through Access and Engagement



Recognising education as a key pathway to socio-economic development, PPAF continues to support initiatives that expand access to quality learning and youth engagement. As part of this effort, PPAF hosted 30 female students and faculty from Government Girls Degree College, Killa Saifullah, Balochistan, giving them an opportunity to learn about its community-driven development approach and work in the province.

The visit was facilitated by the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and the Education Department, Government of Balochistan. Mr. Arshad Rashid, Chief Programmes, PPAF delivered an insightful presentation on PPAF's mandate reflecting the importance of connecting young women from underserved areas with institutional platforms, broadening their perspectives and aspirations.

Complementing these efforts on access, the rehabilitation of Government Primary School Essa Mangrio in UC Atta Mohammad Palli, Umerkot, Sindh, was also completed under the PPAF-funded Restoring Social Services and Climate Resilience project, implemented locally through AWARE. Severely damaged during the 2020 and 2022 floods, the school has been upgraded with renovated classrooms and a veranda, WASH facilities, solar-powered electricity, furniture, a water connection, a protective compound wall, and a safe, child-friendly learning environment.



Building Healthcare Skills for Youth in Tharparkar

At the Dr. Prem Kumar Sital Das Technical Institute – Hunar HealthCare in Islamkot, Tharparkar, technical skills training is being delivered under the project “Economic Empowerment of Marginalised Communities Through Strengthening Technical and Skills Sector in Punjab and Sindh.” Funded by PPAF and implemented by The Hunar Foundation, the initiative focuses on expanding employment opportunities for youth from underserved communities while responding to local skills needs.

Within this framework, a Healthcare Assistant training course is currently underway, with 48 students enrolled in the ongoing batch. The training commenced in November 2025 and is fully supported by PPAF. It is designed to equip participants with practical, market-relevant healthcare skills for employment in hospitals, clinics, and community healthcare settings.

The course combines classroom instruction with practical training, covering areas such as patient care, infection prevention and control, management of bed sores, common health conditions, and basic therapeutic procedures.

The initiative is contributing to expanding access to healthcare training opportunities in Islamkot and surrounding areas, where such structured training options are limited, while also responding to the demand for trained healthcare support staff in the local context.



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February 2026



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Visit of U.S. Embassy and UMass Donahue Institute Delegation



As part of its broader efforts to position its community-driven development model within global knowledge and partnership frameworks, PPAF hosted a delegation from the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and the UMass Donahue Institute Civic Initiative, including Ms. Katherine K. Smith, Public Diplomacy Officer, Mr. Usman J. Khan, and Mr. Arbab Naseebullah Kasi. The engagement was led by PPAF CEO Mr. Nadir Gul Barech, with participation from relevant teams.

Discussions focused on identifying complementarities in approach, particularly in areas where international collaboration and technical exchange can help scale solutions for poverty alleviation.

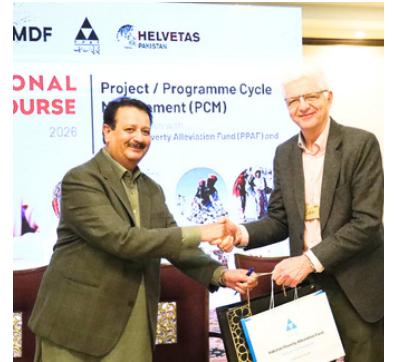
By facilitating dialogue around shared priorities and operational models, the engagement laid the groundwork for potential partnerships that move beyond knowledge exchange towards more sustained, impact-oriented collaboration.

Project Cycle Management Training for Enhanced Learning



To strengthen delivery systems that advance the goal of poverty alleviation, it is essential that the people driving this change are continuously upskilled. In line with this, PPAF initiated a five-day Project Cycle Management training for more than 100 participants, including its own staff and representatives from 40 partner organisations. Conducted by international trainers from MDF Netherlands through Helvetas Pakistan, the initiative brought global expertise into local ecosystems.

The activity focused on enhancing competencies in project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. By facilitating access to international expertise and structured learning PPAF is strengthening the human capital that underpins effective development delivery and developing institutional capacity of its partners for more effective service delivery and contributing to sustained progress in poverty alleviation efforts.



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February 2026



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Strengthening Strategic Engagements at National Level



PPAF continued to engage with key government stakeholders to strengthen alignment on national development priorities and expand opportunities for collaboration.

PPAF CEO Mr. Nadir Gul Barech held a meeting with Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, to discuss potential avenues for enhancing youth-focused interventions and institutional coordination. The discussion centred on identifying synergies that can support more structured and scalable youth engagement.

In a separate interaction, Honourable MNA Farah Naz Akbar, Parliamentary Secretary for the National Heritage and Culture Division, visited PPAF to explore areas of mutual interest and collaboration.

These engagements reflect PPAF's ongoing efforts to build and sustain strategic relationships at the national level, with a focus on aligning institutional strengths to deliver more coherent and inclusive development outcomes.

Stories from the Field

From Struggle to Strength: Transforming Dry Fruit Processing in Quetta

In the heart of Quetta, Muhammad Ahmed established Chaman Dry Fruit as a trusted name for high-quality natural dry fruits, serving customers within and beyond the province. Despite its strong reputation, the business faced key constraints, including limited processing capacity, reliance on traditional methods, high electricity costs, and an unreliable power supply, which restricted its ability to meet growing market demand.

The business trajectory changed with support from the European Union-funded GRASP programme, which provided a matching grant of PKR 10 million. Implemented by the International Trade Centre in partnership with PPAF through its partner organisations, the programme also equipped Muhammad Ahmed with financial literacy training to strengthen business management.

With this combined financial and technical support, the enterprise modernised its operations by installing advanced cleaning, grading, drying, and processing equipment. This significantly improved product quality, consistency, and hygiene, while upgraded packaging enhanced market competitiveness.

A solar energy system was also introduced, reducing dependence on unstable electricity supply, lowering operational costs, and ensuring uninterrupted production.

As a result, annual sales increased from PKR 5 million to PKR 11 million, alongside improved profitability and expanded production capacity. The business also widened its market reach beyond local boundaries and created additional employment opportunities, particularly for youth.

Today, Chaman Dry Fruit reflects how targeted investment, value addition, and modern technology can strengthen small enterprises and contribute to sustainable livelihoods and economic growth in Balochistan.



Stories from the Field

From Barren Earth to a Promising Harvest Ahead

Ali Ahmed Shah, a smallholder farmer in the mountainous Village Bharore, Hattian Bala district of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), had long struggled with poor agricultural productivity. Like many in his region, he faced food insecurity and the worsening impacts of climate change. For years, about 2 kanals of his land remained barren, deemed non-cultivable, leaving his family without returns from the land they depended on for survival.

A turning point in his journey came when he was selected through his Village Farmer Group to learn Climate-Smart Agriculture practices as part of the PPAF-funded AJK Local Area Development Programme, locally implemented by Hamza Development Foundation. He received hands-on training at an agricultural demonstration farm, where he learned soil preparation, row spacing, and moisture management. To support practical application of these skills without financial burden, the programme also provided him with quality-certified vegetable seeds.

Equipped with new knowledge and a firm belief in the science-backed methods suited to the local climate, Ali manually tilted his barren land and applied the techniques he learned. The seeds successfully germinated, covering the once non-cultivated land. Today, Ali stands in his fields with renewed optimism. The harvest is expected to improve his household's food security and diversify income through surplus vegetables, inspiring fellow farmers to transform their land through improved practices. As Ali proudly notes, "When I followed the right methods, even my barren land began to respond—and it rewarded my effort."



Stories from the Field

Safe Water, Stronger Communities – Kasur

For the residents of Union Council Mokal in District Kasur, access to clean drinking water had long been a daily struggle. Most households relied on unsafe and contaminated sources, resulting in frequent illness and constant concern for family health. Women and children were particularly affected, often spending hours collecting water while worrying about its safety.

AGAHE, with financial support from PPAF, installed a solar-powered filtration plant, transforming a critical challenge into a sustainable solution. The facility now provides safe, clean drinking water to hundreds of families daily, significantly improving community living conditions.

The impact has been immediate and meaningful. Waterborne diseases have declined, daily routines have become easier, and families now have peace of mind knowing their water is safe. Community members describe the intervention as life-changing, bringing a renewed sense of health, dignity, and security to their households.

Powered by renewable energy, the filtration plant represents a climate-resilient and sustainable approach to service delivery. It stands as a strong example of how community-focused solutions can address critical needs while ensuring long-term benefits for present and future generations.

