



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION-RDF**

Table of Contents

Message from the Chairperson and Executive Director	2
15 Years of RDF	3
Program Facts As of 2017	4
2017 Highlights	5
Securing Water Rights and Use for Farmers in District Mirpurkhas	6
Empowering Women through Self Help Groups	9
Promoting Quality Education in Government Primary Schools	13
Promoting Local Adaptation Strategies in Tharparkar	15
Promotion of Climate Resilient Livelihoods	18
Strengthening Food & Nutrition Security in Tharparkar	21
Sustainable WASH in Sanghar and Thatta district	23
Private Sector Engagement	25
Multi-sector Humanitarian Assistance to Drought Affected Communities in Tharparkar	27

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Message from the Chairperson and Executive Director

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to share that this year RDF has completed 15 years of its service to the people of Sindh. RDF started its voluntary services back in the year 2002, and today it is one of the leading national not-for-profit organizations. The 'Annual Report 2017' highlights major achievements of the organization during the last year.

The year 2017 was significant in the history of RDF as it went through a strategic change process which includes: the election of a new BOD, the change of operational management and the preparation of 3rd strategic plan of RDF for the next five years (2017-2022). This new strategic plan will be able to respond better to community needs in a changing technological, economic and social scenario of the country. Through our programs, we continued working with farmers, peasants, vulnerable women and children to help them fight societal challenges, climate induced threats and negative effects of poverty and unemployment. RDF's education program was able to provide buildings to around 15 Government Primary schools in Sanghar, Badin and Tando Mohammad Khan districts and it also works in 50 Government Primary

Schools of Sanghar district to create a child friendly learning environment. Our Climate Change Program has been able to put in place a community-based adaptation system in villages to tackle the issues of climate risks. The water management program in Mirpurkhas is contributing to improved water management at farm level on three distributaries of Nara canal. The WASH program has significantly contributed to improve access of rural communities to safe water and sanitation facilities in rural areas of Sanghar district. Through RDF's Women Empowerment and Self-help program, hundreds of women have been able to get their national Identity cards, child birth registrations and marriage certificates. RDF also supported drought affected people in Tharparkar. 5000 malnourished beneficiaries were given cash for work training and WASH facilities.

On behalf of RDF, we thank all our supporters, beneficiary communities, staff, General Body and volunteers who extended their support and trust in our shared journey towards innovating social solutions for an eco-friendly and equitable world.

Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri

Chairperson BoD

Ashfaqe A. Soomro

Executive Director

15 Years of RDF



Our Vision

Equitable and Eco-Friendly World

Our Mission

Innovating Social Solutions and Building Social Institutions

Our Values

Value People

Value Integrity

Value Nature, Relationships

Value Creativity

Providing Equal

Opportunities

Over the past 15 years, RDF has been supporting communities in rural areas of Sindh province to address challenges of food security, unemployment, quality education, women empowerment, environment and disaster management at local level through community institutions and stakeholder engagement process

Key Features of Our Work

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Follow all national policies, rules and regulations in operations | 6. Maintaining Dignity at work |
| 2. Zero Tolerance to malpractices and disciplinary matters | 7. Transforming learning and program efficacy |
| 3. Resource Efficiency and Timely Completion of targets | 8. Protection of the rights of vulnerable people |
| 4. Respect to environment and Cultural norms while execution | 9. Accountable to Stakeholders |
| 5. Transparency and Delegation of authorities | 10. Active stakeholder Engagements |

Program Facts as of 2017



Operations in **1000** villages



WASH Support to **1675,000** Families



Quality Primary Education Support **20,500** Students in **110** Government Primary Schools **120** Teachers



Livelihood and Food Security Support to **55,000** Families



Fuel Efficient Stoves **8,500**



Construction of **4,500** One and Two Room Shelters/Houses **20,000** transitional shelters



Tree plantation **250,000** Saplings



Household Rain Water Conservation Tanks **8500**



Early Warning, Search and Rescue, and First Aid, and Trainings to **8500** Youths



Technical Education and Vocational Training and Services to **1580** men and **850** women Employment of **1245** youth



Trainings on Climate Change, NRM to **5,850** Community Members



DRR Trainings to **2500** Teachers, **650** Livestock and Agriculture Extension Workers, PHED & other Officials.



102 Projects

2017 Highlights

Beneficiaries



63636 Children



43833 Women



50697 Men

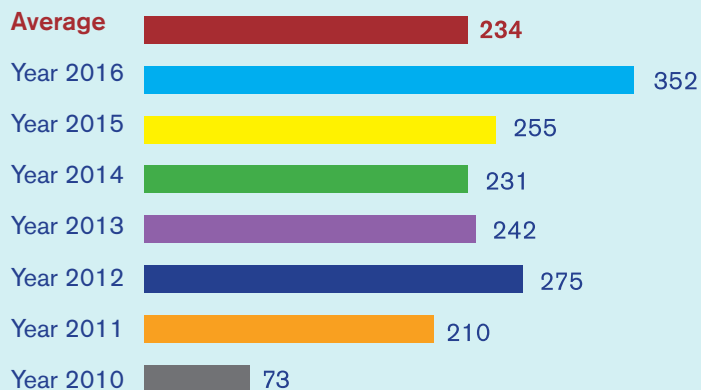
Villages 412

Running Projects 12

Portfolio

Financial year 2016-17	Amount in PKR
Livelihood and Food Security	246,660,975
Climate Change and DRR	40,405,197
Quality Education	36,988,386
Total	324,054,559

Staffing Trend





1.

Securing Water Rights and Use for Farmers in District Mirpurkhas

Collaborating with SIDA and Nara Canal Area Water Board, the project is in progress since February 2017 and supports approximately 3000 farmers and peasants of 62 water courses of three distributaries of the Nara Canal: Mir, Doulatpur and Gorchani Minors in district Mirpurkhas. This ensures that vulnerable farming communities

exercise their right to access and control water resources and benefit from the sustainable management of water for agriculture.

Training and Facilitation of Farmers

The project team has organized trainings on water conservation at farm level, crop water requirements, discharge measurement, O&M of irrigation infrastructure, Abyana Assessment and collection, water rights and DRR for the farmers and peasants of three targeted distributaries. Approximately 1485 male and 390 female farmers were trained in 2017.



Rehabilitation of Critical Points of Water Courses and Distributaries

6 critical points of water courses are rehabilitated to strengthen the water courses to reduce risks of breaches from vulnerable points of the water courses. The project has installed gauges at 40 outlets of distributaries to measure the flow of water. 12 pizo meters are also installed at distributary level.

Rehabilitation of Farm Level Irrigation Infrastructure

The project, in collaboration with Farmer Organizations, Water Course Associations and AWB, has constructed 53 Naka/outlets at water courses to reduce seepage and leakage of water at the farm level as well as to reduce risks of breaches of outlets. One disposal channel is also rehabilitated at Mir Minor.



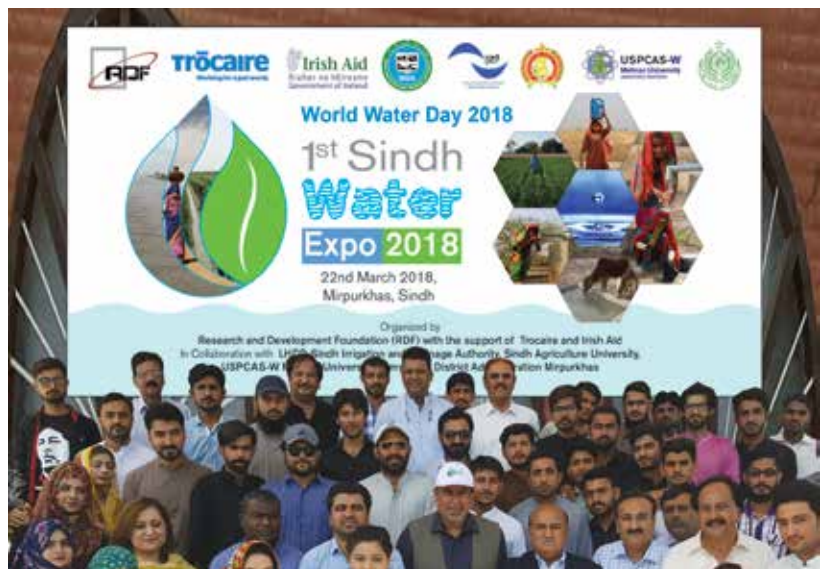
Training on Irrigation and Agriculture Extension in Changing Environments

A two-day training was held on Irrigation and Agriculture Extension in Changing Environments for the agriculture and irrigation extension workers, in collaboration with SIDA and Agriculture Department GoS. It was attended by 20 officials.



Celebration of World Water Day 2017

World Water Day 2017 was jointly celebrated by RDF, Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam and SIDA at the SAU on 22 March, wherein a large number of community farmers, women, artisans, students, faculty members, researchers and representatives of civil society organizations participated in a seminar, followed by a walk.



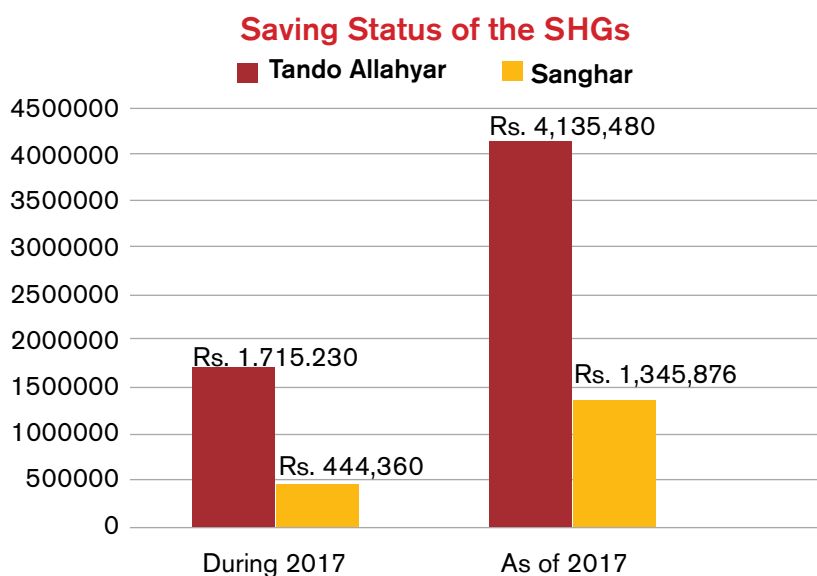


2. Empowering Women through Self Help Groups

The Women Empowerment Project through self help approach is progressing in 80 villages of TandoAllahyar and 32 villages of Sanghar district to empower rural women economically, politically and socially. The Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are taking efforts for their own development such as saving and internal lending, establishing

enterprises for generating incomes, enrolling children in schools, vaccinating mothers and children, planting trees, getting CNIC, opening bank accounts, getting Nikah Namas (Marriage certificates), raising kitchen gardens, making and using fuel efficient stoves and improving hygiene.

The project has facilitated formation of 397 SHGs of women from rural and semi urban areas with approximately 5586 members. These groups are formed by trained Community Facilitators (CFs), who belong to same communities and the village. These women CFs then train the young women of the community to help them operate SHGs. RDF team has also formed 7 CLAs in both the districts which have 105 women members.



Annual Updates of the Project

Activity	TandoAllahyar		Sanghar	
	During 2017	As of 2017	During 2017	As of 2017
Formation of Women SHGs	70	300	15	97
Membership of Women	3195	4206	230	1381
Saving of the Groups	Rs. 1715230	Rs. 4135480	444360	1345876
# of Women Borrowed Loans from Groups	564	1426	165	465
# of Enterprises Established by the SHGs	365	1026		66
Literacy Courses	1300	2170	400	357
Getting CNICs			165	673
Registration of NikkahNama/Marriage Certificates	158	660	17	28
Child Birth Registration Certificates	116	208	00	40
Enrolment of Children in Schools	2652	4943	00	1278
Preparing and Using fuel Efficient Stoves	1952	2639	250	600
Tree Plantation	9282	14323	345	1200
Business Management Skill Trainings	90	180	00	00
Kitchen Gardens Established by women	459	655	32	270

Vocational and life-skills training for women

The project provided training in business skills, occupational skills, and life skills. In 2017, total 326 SHG members completed skill training in various trades, such as stitching, beautician, embroidery and fashion designing. In order to facilitate women to complete their courses, this four-month training was provided through mobile training centers at the village level.



Life Skills and the Literacy

The project has provided life skills training to women SHG members in basic literacy, food and nutritious intake, child care, making fuel efficient stoves, opening and running a bank account etc. 82 functional literacy centres were established in 2017 wherein 2200 women got basic skills of literacy and numeracy and

now they are able to write their names in local language. This is helping them to maintain their saving records too.



District Support Group (DSG)

DSG, established by RDF and represented by Local Department, Local elected representatives, Police, NADRA, BISP, Social Welfare department and district Election Commission, is creating conducive environment for the rural women.

Consequently, rural women are facilitated to acquire national identity cards, get registered in voters' list, get access to social safety net programs and get disability certificates from social welfare department etc.



Innovating and Exhibiting Craft

Experienced SHG artisans are identified and trained to make new products to diversify skills and earn additional income. They were trained to make basketry work, applique designs and embroidery items.

SHG women members are exhibiting their craft at various national and local exhibitions, such as the Creek Club Karachi and few others at local level in Tando Allahyar and Sanghar on various festivals, such as Eid.





3. Promoting Quality Education in Government Primary Schools

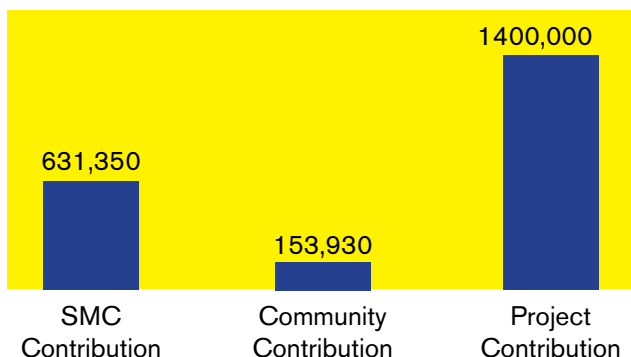
Back in 2011, RDF started working in Government Primary Schools in Taluka Jam Nawas Ali when floods devastated the schools. After rehabilitation work in 10 schools in 2012, the project has continued working with the Education Department and School Management Committees (SMCs) to improve quality of education and child friendly

learning environment in 50 primary schools. 20 more schools were added to the target in 2017. The project team facilitated SMCs to prepare School Development Plans and devised to meet immediate needs of the schools and utilize project resources and SMC funds efficiently for the quality education. Teachers are trained on Pedagogical skills.

Provision & Maintenance of Missing facilities to Schools

Further supported by SMC funds, the project has provided all missing facilities such as furniture, WASH and playground accessories to all these 20 schools.

School Maintenance Through Co-financing in PKR During the Year 2017



Increasing Enrollment of School Going Children

The project is making efforts to increase enrollment of the children in schools, particularly of girls through social mobilization, activities promoting education and child to child contact. Through these efforts, the enrollment of school-going children increased from 1249 children to 1486 in 10 schools in 2017.



Enrollment Increase	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017	As of 2017
Boys	269	371	180	
Girls	334	119	57	
Total	1203	490	237	



Teachers Training on Content Knowledge

Content knowledge trainings in Science, Mathematics and English were organized and imparted to 57 teachers of 20 schools to make them able to teach these subjects proficiently to children. Follow ups and refresher sessions were conducted and further hands on support was extended to all the teachers to ensure that teachers are teaching students with required subject expertise. Teachers were also trained and provided with first aid kits.

Co-Curricular Activities

Various national and international days such as Pakistan National Day, Defense Day, Children Day, World Water Day, World Environment Day, International Teachers' Day have been celebrated in the schools.

Moreover, the project team regularly organizes co-curricular activities in schools to engage children in learning and physical development activities. Moreover, Awareness Raising seminars, community walks, gatherings are regular activities of the project to reduce drop-outs and maximize enrollment particularly of the girls.



4. Promoting Local Adaptation Strategies in Tharparkar

The climate change adaptation project aims to design and promote adaptation strategies in four union councils of Taluka Chachro, district Tharparkar. In 2017, 60 village-level community organizations (COs) updated their village adaptation plans as a tool to build adaptive capacities of community groups, Government officials and promote local strategies. As a result, the communities have increased their coordination with the

public departments such as the district Health department, education department, agriculture department and livestock department. Secondly, communities have started conservation of the grazing lands by planting trees/shrubs in their homes. They have also started fencing work on the grazing and agriculture land to control over-grazing and use the land judiciously.

To maximize rain water storage facilities, the project is also assisting communities to construct and rehabilitate household and communal rain water facilities, such as Tanks and Taraies. In 2017, 100 rain water harvesting tanks were rehabilitated and 3 communal ponds/Taraies were developed. The project supported 100 poor women to grow vegetables in their kitchen gardens through water efficient systems to supplement nutritious food intake and prevent malnutrition. The project also established 20 village-level tree gardens where a total 2,650 saplings of Acacia, Lemon, Roheero, Kumbhat, Neem, Jujube, Moringa, and Phog were planted by the farmers.



Promotion of Fuel Efficient Stoves

Fuel efficient stove is proven to be a remarkable success of the project. This year further 1238 stoves were made by the women in different target villages. Now the total number of stoves has reached 6425

Livestock Improvement

The project has continued to improve livestock management in target villages, such as making animal shade, selecting fodder for the particular season, and vaccinating, deworming and providing adequate water to animals.



The project has also trained 32 Community Livestock Extension Workers to ensure timely vaccination of animals in collaboration with the Livestock Department. This year, the CLEWs have vaccinated 32,200 small and large animals. The project reviews the CLEW plans on quarterly basis. The project team also organized sessions on vulture conservation.

Teachers Training on Climate Change

To help teachers to teach climate change and environment better and with child-friendly methods, three 2-day Teachers' Trainings on Climate Change were organized; 57 teachers and supervisory staff from 50 government schools participated.

School Environment Clubs

The project has established School Environment Clubs in 30 schools to educate and involve children in nature conservation activities. The children are celebrating various international days in their schools and at the village level, such as celebration of World Water Day, World Environment Day, National day of Pakistan. They planted around 2000 local tree saplings in their schools and villages. RDF organized exposure visits of children to various nature sites, academic and historical institutions. Universal Children Day was also celebrated together with Education Department of Tharparkar on 18 November 2017. The project has also provided missing facilities in the schools.





5. Promotion of Climate Resilient Livelihoods

A three-year project is in progress since November 2016 in 30 villages of two union councils of taluka Khipro, district Sanghar to demonstrate and promote climate

resilient agriculture, livestock and water conservation techniques. The project also provides income generation skills to the vulnerable people of the area.

FFS and Demonstration of Resilient agriculture Practices

The project has demonstrated techniques of resilient agriculture on water logged and saline soils, such as planting Eucalypts on water logged soils, Hurri plantation of Acacia nilotica, Alfa, Jantar and clover. Through these crops, the soil is in reclamation process. An extensive Farmers' capacity building program through FFS is also in progress to educate and sensitize farmers on resilient agriculture techniques and technologies, suitable for the area. So far, 300 farmers are trained through FFS classes. Farmers in desert areas of Achro Thar were also assisted through training and provision of quality seeds such as Cluster bean, Manjhandri (Sasbania), Aniseed (Saunf) and Mustard Oil to grow drought resilient crops. More than 6000 drought resilient local trees were also planted in the villages, such as Neem Tree, Acacia, Jujube, and Morinaga.



Rain Water harvesting & Installation of Solar Pumps

The project has constructed 300 household rain water harvesting tanks and 6 communal ponds in Achhro, Thar area to maximize rain water storage facilities. Solar pumps were also installed on 3 dug wells.



Training of CLEWs and Livestock Management

A month-long training course held in SAU Tandojam in which 21 youth were trained as CLEWs. They are now giving extension services to their communities. The CLEWs have established five community livestock centers in the villages to offer their services to the farmers. Through the CLEWs, the trend of livestock vaccination and cure has tremendously improved in the villages.



Promotion of Fuel Efficient Stoves

To reduce emissions of the CO₂ in the atmosphere, the project trained approximately more than 400 women to make fuel efficient stoves who have installed around 1200 fuel efficient stoves in their houses and are using them properly as well.



Weather Station for Sanghar

RDF had long been advocating for the installation of weather station in Sanghar district, to provide early warning system and issuing real time advisories to people of the area. The efforts came true in 2017, in an event where RDF gathered Pak Met Department officials and the district officials from Sanghar to discuss climate change issues of the district and find out solutions. The DG Pak Met Department announced to install the weather station in Sanghar while the Deputy Commissioner donated a plot for the station.



Skill Development of Youth and career Counseling

To provide employable skills to the youth, the project has provided vocational and technical trainings to 108 people in motorbike mechanic, tailoring, electrician/solar technician and driving. The training course was three months long and was designed as per trainee needs.



Improved School Environment Conditions and Joyful Learning

To improve learning environment in the schools, the project is educating children on climate change, DRR and organizing various quiz competitions, co-curricular activities to learn and play a role in the conservation of environment. Six Quiz competitions were organized among 14 schools to enhance the competition environment. Additionally, playing accessories and swings were also installed in 30 schools to provide a joyful environment to the children for their physical development besides learning.



A two-day teachers' training on Climate Change Teaching was organized wherein 23 teachers from various Government Primary Schools of Khipro Tehsil participated.





6 ■

Strengthening food & Nutrition Security in Tharparkar

A Three-year food and nutrition security project is being implemented in 70 villages of Taluka Chachro,

district Tharparkar to improve food security and nutrition of the vulnerable and drought affected families.

Developing Rain Water Harvesting Facilities

The project is building rain water collection infrastructure which include, 2549 rain water tanks, 6 dug wells with solar system and 15 communal rain water points/Ponds.



Training of PLWs and Community Activists on FNS

To build skills and knowledge of the Pregnant and lactating mothers on food and nutrition, the project has organized 650 training sessions on nutrient-rich food and '1000 days window of opportunity'. Food Festivals were also organized for pregnant and lactating mothers in the villages and in schools for children. Community Food and Nutrition Promoters are capacitated in all villages to ensure that FNS extension services are readily available in the communities. 40 male and 40 female FNS Promoters were trained in 2017.



Improving Dietary Pattern

To improve consumption of nutritious food intake and dietary pattern among the PLWs

and children under 2, the project has been promoting kitchen gardening, livestock management and drought resilient agriculture practices and plantation of fruit trees in the area. So far 550 kitchen and 14 communal gardens were established in the villages to supplement food intake of families. Four Seed banks were also established on pilot basis and 438 Seed storage bins were provided to the beneficiaries. Further 3000 fruit trees were also planted by the farmers. A batch of 35 CLEWs went through a month-long training course on basic livestock management and, in collaboration with livestock department, vaccinated around 150,000 and dewormed around 51575 animals in the villages. At village level, around 3000 farmers were also trained on Livestock management skills and fodder preservation method (Silage Making). 35 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) got refresher courses. Campaigns for getting CNICs were organized in 36 villages and 983 CNICs were processed.

Strengthening Micro Enterprises

180 girls were given 15-day Market Driven Skills Training and 85 boys were given three-month training in trades of driving, tailoring and Motorbike mechanic. Lastly, one hundred micro-entrepreneurs were trained and supported to strengthen availability of nutrient-rich food items at the village level. 40 small shops were established in the villages to improve access of people to nutrient-rich food.





7 Sustainable WASH in Sanghar and Thatta district

The project is in progress in 123 villages of Khipro Taluka in Sanghar and 26 villages in Thatta district, the access of vulnerable communities to safe and sustainable WASH facilities is improved. VDCs of male

and female groups were formed and trained with basic management and record keeping skills. Through VDCs, 123 community action plans were prepared to identify and resolve the community WASH problem.

Rehabilitation of Water Facilities

The project has increased access of 91,567 people to safe drinking water facilities, that include 10 Afridev hand pumps, 50 lead line hand pumps, 50 rehabilitation of existing dysfunctional hand pumps, 85 new direct borehole Hand pumps, rehabilitation of two public water supply schemes, 75 rain water harvesting tanks, 08 communal ponds, 05 new reservoirs (tarai) and 13 Dug wells.

Ensuring easy access of right holders to sustainable water supply services sources, the project has completed 305 water schemes. The project has also developed 7 communal water supply schemes with solar pumping system in areas where safe drinking water was not accessible to people.



Promotion of Sanitation with modified approaches of CLTS and PHAST

The project is working towards total sanitation in the villages through CLTS and PHAST

approaches. It provides a subsidy for sub-structure of the latrine to make it more resilient, while developing superstructure of the latrine is the responsibility of the beneficiary. 73 triggering sessions on CLTS were conducted, along with training on PHAST. This resulted in construction of 350 pit latrines with locally available material. Thus 60 villages were awarded with the status of open defecation free through 3rdparty monitoring.

Organized 10 training sessions for masons and 03 trainings of vendors for the promotion of sanitation and establishing marts in the project area.

Hygiene Promotion & DRR Training

Hygiene promotion campaigns were organized at the village level involving school children, WASH Committee members. Hygiene promotion messages through local FM radio were also aired. Eight Trainings events on search and rescue and sessions on heatstroke were also organized.





8

Private Sector Engagement

RDF has partnership with Oil Exploration and Production companies to manage their social welfare obligations to fulfill education and health needs in the concession areas. RDF is currently under contract with

the United Energy Pakistan (UEP) and is providing missing facilities and buildings to primary schools, particularly to Girls Schools. In 2017, following projects were completed with UEP:

- Construction of two room school building with lavatory block at Government Boys Primary School Village Noor Mohammad Mari, district Badin.
- Rehabilitation of building and provision of furniture at Government Primary School Jinhan Soomro, District Tando Mohammad Khan.
- Provision of furniture, fixture and WASH facilities at Government Girls High School Matli.

The rehabilitation and construction work was started in five another schools in Badin and one school in Sanghar district.





9.

Multi-sector humanitarian assistance to drought affected communities in Tharparkar

An integrated multi-sector response (Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) and WASH) project was implemented during the year 2017 in 11 union councils of Tharparkar district to improve resilience of the drought affected population and reduce levels of malnutrition through Community

based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and by promoting maternal, infant and child care practices and hygiene measures, providing water and low cost sanitation solutions, improving access to nutritiously diverse food and facilitating better livestock management.

Providing Cash for Training Assistance to Malnourished Beneficiaries

The project provided cash for training assistance to 5000 malnourished beneficiaries, mainly the women, in drought-affected areas. Every beneficiary was given cash of PKR. 18,000 in three installments upon completion of the training sessions on food security and nutrition, livestock and agriculture management. This assistance helped malnourished families to meet their daily life needs, particularly the food and medicines.



Rehabilitation of Dug Wells, Water Ponds and Installation of Solar Water Pumps

Four dug wells were rehabilitated with installation of solar water pumps. Animal drinking water troughs were also constructed alongside the wells to facilitate people fetch water easily from the deep dug wells. 20 communal water ponds were rehabilitated in 18 villages of 5 union councils to maximize rain water storage facilities. These facilities were rehabilitated through cash for work modality and the local labor was provided with cash to



help them out meet daily needs too. Further household level 300 rain water harvesting tanks were also rehabilitated.

Outreach Workers and Hygiene Promotion

Through the community outreach workers, village cleaning campaigns were organized, school hygiene clubs were formed and hygiene education was provided to school children and community members. Outreach worker was paid a cash grant of PKR. 5200/- for six months to make her /him able of conducting hygiene promotion campaign and take vector control measures in the villages.

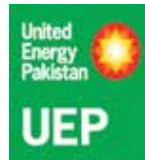


Vaccination and De-worming of Livestock

Around 73,500 animals were de-wormed through oral medicines in coordination with District Livestock Department. The farmers were given orientation sessions on use of de-worming medicines to improve animal health and milk production. Additionally the Government's livestock department conducted vaccination in the target villages.



Our Valued Partners



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