



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION-RDF**



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1.

Foreword

With immense pleasure we share with you the RDF's Annual Report 2019, which showcase the achievements of the organization made in line with its five years strategic plan.

The year 2019 was significant in terms of RDF's outreach to most vulnerable communities in district Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Tharparkar, Tando Allahyar and Umerkot districts. We continued working with small farmers, peasants, vulnerable women and children to help them fight societal challenges, climate induced threats and poverty and unemployment. RDF's education program was able to provide school buildings and create a jubilant environment in schools for children. 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 improving water management at farm level on three distributaries of Nara canal. The WASH program has

significantly improved access of rural communities to safe water and sanitation facilities. Lastly, 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.

In the year 2019, RDF was also able for provide assistance to drought affected communities in desert areas of Sanghar and Umerkot. The timely WASH assistance helped to reduce their sufferings.

On behalf of RDF, we thank all our supporters, partner 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. Together with our partners, RDF will continue to deliver for women, children and poor farmers on its commitment to bring about change in their lives.

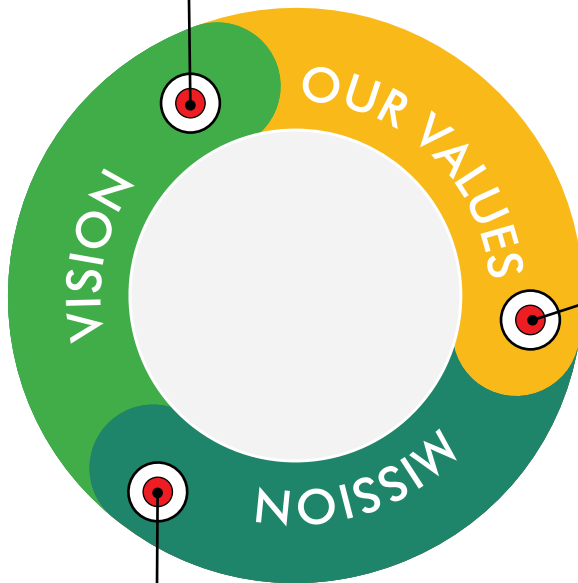
Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri
Chairman BoD

Ashfaque A. Soomro
Executive Director

2. Who We Are



Equitable and Eco-Friendly World



Innovating Social Solutions and Building Social Institutions

- Value People
- Value Integrity
- Value Nature
- Value Relationships
- Value Creativity
- Providing Equal Opportunities

Formed in 2002

Operation in Village = 1,066

Staff Strength = 195 Current

Total No. of Projects = 125

3.

Our Commitment



Over the past 17 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 stakeholders engagement |

4.

Year 2019 in Focus



No. of Project Completed:	04
No. of Project Launched:	03
No. of Projects On going:	11

Beneficiaries



215,712 Children

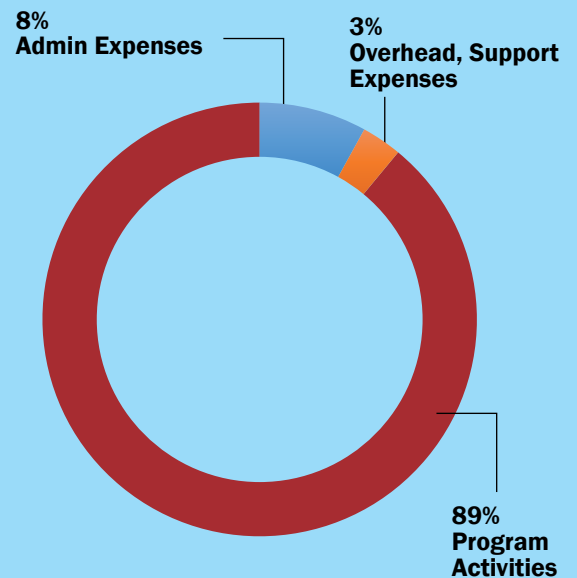


66,670 Female



60,482 Male

Outreach to villages	1,066
Trees Planted	47,593
CNICs of Communities Prepared	3,774
Child Birth Registration Certificates	375
No. of Youth Trained	2,987
No. of Teachers Trained	180
No. of Children Enrolled into Schools	3,235
Livestock Vaccinated/Deworming	148,718
Fuel Efficient Stoves	4,579

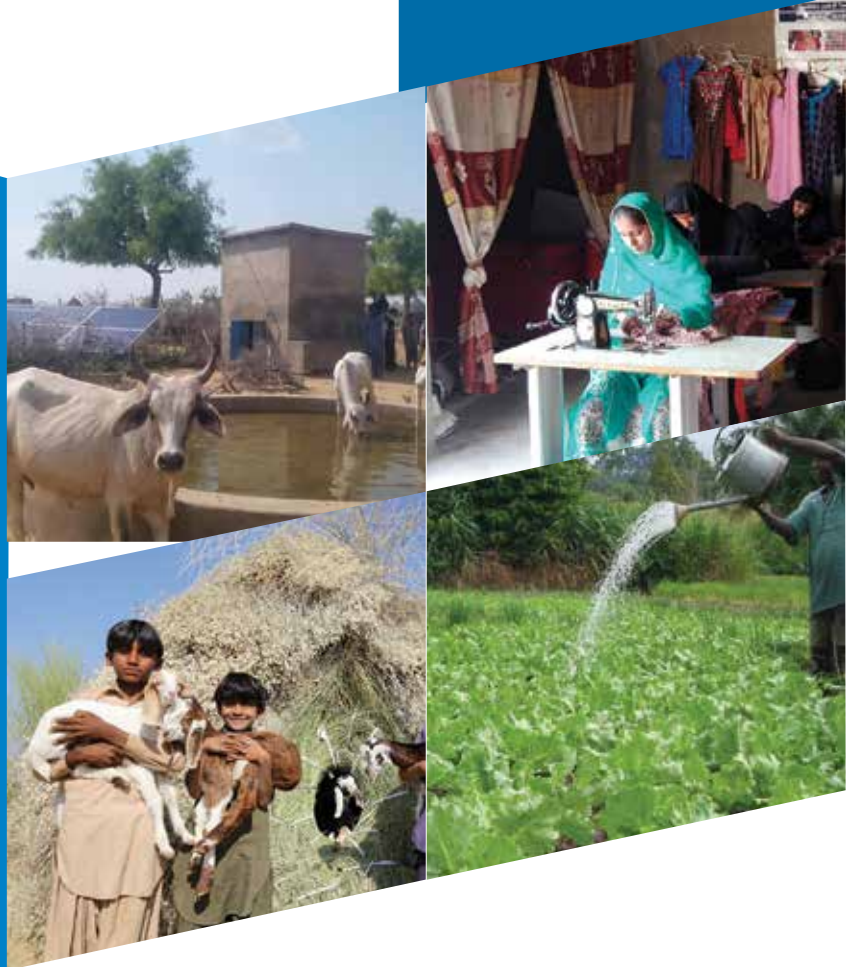


Portfolio July 2018 - June 2019 in PKR Millions

Program Activities	246.34
Admin Expenses	21.4
Overhead, Support Expenses	7.4
Total	275.14

5.

Agriculture and Livelihood Program



5.1 Strengthening Water Management in Mirpurkhas

The Water Management project is assisting 2750 small and progressive farmers of three distributaries; Doulatpur, Mir and Gorchani of the Nara Canal System in district Mirpurkhas through strengthening their farmer organizations and water course association for efficient and equitable water management. During the year 2019, project has made following performance:

Rehabilitation of Community level Irrigation Infrastructure

The project has developed a network of outlets at the field level to reduce water losses at the farm level. So far 215 outlets/Nakas were constructed through farmer participation contribution approach.



Critical points of Mir Minor, Doulatpur and Gorchani minors were also strengthened, to reduce field inundation risks and the water wastages.

The project has constructed 30 culverts for easy access of agriculture products to markets and easy commuting to link roads, 15 washing pads for women and two water ponds. The project has also rehabilitated and linked drainage system to main drains at two sites of the mentioned distributaries, to address issues of water logging and land degradation.

Strengthening Farmer Organizations

The project has trained 136 men and 75 women farmers and peasants on equitable water distribution, Discharge measurement, organizational management and leadership, Abyana Assessment and Collection and DRR. The project has provided basic furniture and fixture



and record keeping assistance to two Farmer Organizations and 15 Water Course Associations, to enable them run the business of organizations conveniently. Farmer Field Schools were run in 10 villages with 200 farmers to provide them with the intensive field based training.

Conjunctive Use of Water

Since, the area is prone to water shortages, thus the Project is taking every possible efforts to provide with the viable and ecofriendly options of water conservation and management, improve livelihoods thereby. Conjunctive use of water is the practice of storing surface water in ground water in wet years and withdrawing it from the basin in dry years. The demonstration point is established at a farm on Doulatpur Minor.

Demonstration of Water Efficient Cropping Patterns

The project demonstrated resilient agriculture and water efficient practices in the area, that were quite successful and farmers have adopted them. One of the best practice promoted by the project was of the plantation of Hurries (Block Plantation of Acacia Nilotica) on 40 acres. Laser land leveling were also demonstrated at around 17 acres to allow equitable water to crop land, and 220 women were facilitated with growing water efficient vegetable crops.

RDF has been promoting the Hurri Plantation (block plantation) in Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Dadu and Jamshoro districts of Sindh.

Hurrie is one of successful strategies to rehabilitate the land and regain soil fertility. Mr. Hanif Gaddi, a progressive farmer from Mirpukhas have cultivated 2 acres, of saline land, with Hurri. Hanif views Hurrie as significant modifier of agricultural practices in Sindh. RDF's assistance has changed the outlook of our fields, says Hanif. Hurri has become a source of earning for the people, people are replicating this model. The worth of fields has dramatically increased, now one-acre prepared plot of Hurri worth rupees 1500,000/= (1.5 million rupees). Branches of trees are nutritious fodder for livestock. Birds have made their nests in trees, honey and gum are produced, informs Hanif.

Youth Leadership Course in Water Governance

A 15 days leadership course on water Governance was organized for the 20 youth from rural areas of district Mirpurkhas. They were given exposure to look at the mega and micro irrigation infrastructure projects and witness model farming practices in Sindh, Punjab and Capital territories. In years to come, these youth will take part in activism of Farmer's Organizations and Water Users Association to lead those forums.

5.2 Empower Women through Self Help Approach

RDF is implementing three Self Help Approach (SHA) projects on women empowerment in district Tando Allahyar and Sanghar, following a well-tested approach of KNH. SHA program pursues women empowerment for the better future of their children by strengthening self-help strategies, expanding their economic capacity to increased household income; and building lobby and services on social issues and civic rights. In year 2019, following three projects were continued:

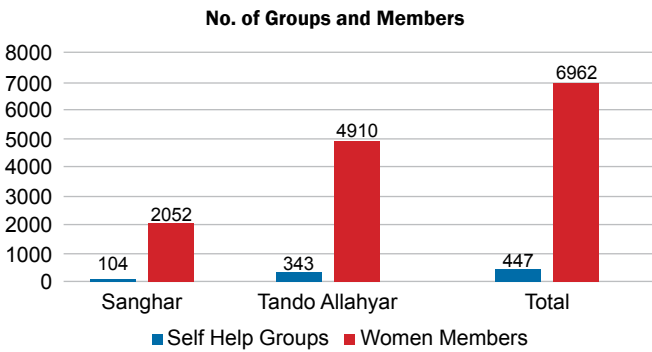
1. Women Empowerment through Self Help Groups, Tando Allahyar
2. Sustainable Women Empowerment in Tando Allahyar.
3. Child-focused Community Development with Self Help Approach District Sanghar

It is worth to mention that these projects are contributing to SDG 01: No poverty, 02: Zero Hunger, 03: Good health and Well-Being, 04: Quality Education, and 05: Gender Equality. Following are the achievement of RDF's SHA program during year 2019:

Formation and capacity building of Self Help Groups (SHGs)

Women groups are formed and strengthened under SHA approach so that these women can claim their social, economic and political rights. In year 2019, 30 new groups are formed, having 15-18 members in each group. (Graph shows total SHGs and membership).





Their capacity development carried out through the trainings on basic group management, leadership, goal settings, saving, loan management, and record keeping. Uneducated SHG members are given basic literacy up to grade 4 level in order to fully participate and get benefit of program. Below table shows the number of SHG members trained.

Trainings	Sanghar	Tando Allahyar	Total
SHG Concept and Management	355	1659	2014
Saving, Loan & Fund Management	355	1659	2014
Goal Setting and Self-Assessment	355	1308	1663

After being the member in SHG and attending training it is observed that these rural women become more self-confident, independent and participate proactively in household decisions concerning their families and public life. They contribute in children's health as they strive for nutritional improvement, as well as support their children's educational careers more actively.

Self Help Approach has proved to be a successful instrument to combat poverty in a sustainable way. It empowers the very poor, the majority being women, socially, economically and politically.

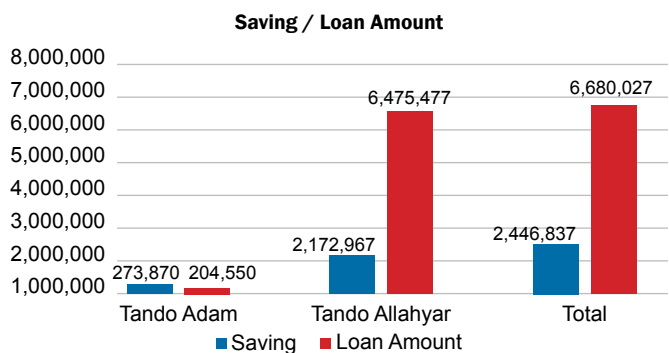
Jamna, mother of six children, lives in village Jumo Khan Kot, Tando Allahyar. Her extended family members had objections over children's going-out of village. When women formed their SHG in her village – they set their social, economic and political goals, she set her children's education as top goal.

She was encouraged and supported by the group. She took some time to sensitize her husband and make him understand the importance of education. Jamna, with the help of other group members and her husband, made elders realize the possible results of the educated girls that they can bring in family and community. Her children are in the school now. She also saves money that she spend on the children's wellbeing.

Economic Empowerment

One of the key strategy under SHA approach is saving by members, to form a joint pool of money for the economic betterment. Saving amount is used for internal loaning among the members for establishing micro enterprises. During the year 2019, a total 737 groups managed to save Rs. 2,446,837 and disburse loans. Using this amount, groups have rotated the amount of Rs. 6,680,027 and provided loans to 1,337 women, who have started their micro enterprises like tailoring, production of handcrafts, livestock rearing, small grocery shops and beautician service. This community based system of loaning and investing also helps the individual members to achieve their economic goals set through the SHG platform. SHG members who avail the loan facility are supported with capacity building by RDF. Training program contains business planning and skill development. In year 2019, a total of 280 women members were trained in these two areas. After training they have enhanced the micro business and contributing in their household incomes.

Saving and Use	Tando Adam	Tando Allahyar	Total
Saving	273,870	2,172,967	2,446,837
Loan Amount	204,550	6,475,477	6,680,027
No. of loans disbursed	87	1250	1337
No. of Enterprises established	68	910	978



Social and Political Empowerment

Another key aspect of SHA approach is to empower SHG members on the social rights and equip them to set their personal goals for social cohesion and mainstreaming. As a result of the social goals approximately 626 children were enrolled into schools. Around 60% children dropout from the schools is reduced. Additionally 3020 number of women have either get new CNIC or renewed CNICs and 375 women got their children birth registration.

Moreover, SHG members who belongs to minorities lacks interest in political rights especially women are given least priority- but with the efforts of RDF, in year 2019 a total 1080 women have registered their votes with the office of Election commission. The assessment and status of achievements of SHG goals reveals that the women speak about the gender roles and exercise women rights.

Linkage Building

Groups at village level are also being facilitated by RDF to coordinate with line departments and district level development actors to avail Government services and pursue their communal issues. These linkage are also complement the achievement of individual members' social and/or political goals. During year 2019 a total 28 formal meetings and linkage visits were made by SHG activists to district level development institutions. Following are significant actions and outcome, resulted after meetings:

- Education: Rehabilitation of a school at village

Sarang Hakro with the cost of Rs: Twenty Thousands donated by NCHD. Members of SHGs held meeting with district Education officer for the teacher at School of Gul Muhammad Laghari.

- District Health Officer was approached for screening of HIV/ Aids in village Allah Rakhyo Pathan by SHG. Camp was conducted and screened 612 cases, which were found negative.
- Social: District NADRA office, Tando Allahyar provided mobile camps in five villages for CNICs and B Forms preparation. A total of 626 women got their CNIC from NADRA, and 375 children received the birth registration certificates.
- Social Safety net: SHGs conducted meeting with the Ushar and Zakat Committee and requested for financial support to widows and poor females. Deputy Director Ushar and Zakat supported 22 cases with Rs 4000 on quarterly basis to each women.
- Others: To mark 16 days of activism for highlighting women rights a program was organized in village Allah Rakhyo Pathan where more than 150 members of different SHGs and CLA participated.

Tree Plantation and Vegetable Gardening

During year 2019, the SHG members planted 7018 tree saplings. Besides, 372 plots of kitchen gardening were developed by the women.



5.3 Empower Youth for Work Project, Jamshoro

The project is in progress to empower rural youth and enhance their entrepreneurial abilities and life skills to pursue their career plans. Job placement, social networking and confidence building are the features of the program.

Following are key achievement of the project in year 2019.

Mobilizing youth for employability

Project has strategic approach to organize youth at village level and to pool their knowledge and mobilize the resources for joint efforts. In year 2019 RDF has organized 64 such youth groups in 54 villages of Jamshoro having 2,636 members (1649 Female and 987 Male) called youth innovators. Additionally one provincial level youth advisory board and youth technical committee at District Jamshoro is formed to raise voice for better policies and opportunities for the youth.

Establishment of Youth Innovation Hub

To cater the training and employability needs of youth of Jamshoro district, RDF has established a state of the art resource center called “Innovative Hub for Youth”, which is equipped with resources like the training area, meeting and discussion room, business incubation room, and team of technical guides for career building and counseling.

At this Hub, so far 1649 young girls 987 males were trained on soft skills including employability skills, communication skills, basic concepts of gender and other life skills. Additionally 149 youth leaders of Jamshoro, have been trained to deliver life skills training to other youth member of their

groups. Innovative Hub has also provided trainings to students of higher educational institute of Jamshoro. Three batches of young students of Mehran University of engineering and technology and Sindh University have been trained on employability skills. One batch of female students of Pakistan Baitulmal Vocational and Technical Institute Jamshoro was also trained on employability skills.

Job Fairs and creating Employment Opportunities for the Youth

Trained youths after completing the training cycle are supported in seeking jobs or create enterprises. In 2019 a total of three CV writing workshops were arranged for youth of Jamshoro in which 63 youth learnt attractive CV writing skills. Additionally, This project arranged two job fairs and one open recruitment day for youth of Jamshoro, which resulted in shortlisting of 127 youth and final selection of 27 youth in different organizations. Besides using IT support at Innovative Hub, 189 youth have directly accessed job information. 350 job opportunities have been shared with youth using the social media and whatsapp group. Total 92 youth have successfully get employment in various organizations.



Collaboration for Youth Development

Linkage of youth with industry, trade and commerce are materialized by the project. To enable the youth about professional working environment, seven exposure visits were arranged to different organizations and industries including Island textile factory, Kotri, IBA Karachi, Mandi express Karachi and other organizations.

To implement gender laws, coordination meetings were held with Deputy Commissioner and SSP Jamshoro and the meeting with Youth Minister was convened. Besides, under a MoU with University of Sindh, RDF has also conducted the tree plantation campaign and planted 700 trees in campus.

Youth Social and Economic empowerment

To create a conducive environment for the youth for their economic development, various initiatives have been shaped up. To create positive perception about working women, reduced gender based violence and inclusion of youth especially young women in decision making, 28 theater performances and 26 GBV session have been arranged in various communities. 1 elderly women group formed to advocate for youth employment, agriculture and entrepreneurship.

Additionally for social empowerment, 180 female 170 male youth have been facilitated to get their CNICs. Exposure visits of Youth were organized with the SMEs and MFI. Trained youth also participated in radio talk shows, TV talk Shows and seminars, enabled them to raise voice for better policies on youth development.

5.4 Water Rights for Basin Management and inclusivity in spate irrigation in Nai Gaj, Dadu

Project to improve farming practices in spate irrigated areas of Johi, district Dadu. Spate is a unique water resource system that makes productive use of short duration floods in dry river beds. The project aims to contribute towards the re-setting of water distribution rules in target command areas of under construction Nai Gaj Dam, thereby promoting efficient water use in agriculture for better livelihood opportunities. Project inputs includes training, capacity building, and promote efficient crops.

So far the project has completed the identification of target villages at the head, middle and tail ended areas of Nai Gaj, where farmers are being organized at the village level. One Water User Association is formed at Nao Wah, with three office bearers and other landholder as members.

Inception workshop with the communities and stakeholders was organized. During the workshops, community activists were also selected as Water Masters, who are traditionally operating and managing the spate water system. Besides project introductory meetings with stakeholders were conducted.

Baseline study

To determine the benchmark of the projects baseline study has been started. The study is divided into two parts. The technical parts is related to water rights and use is being conducting by Pak- US Center for Advanced Study in Water, of MUET and social part is being conducted by RDF. FGDs and area mapping was conducted as part of the study.



6.

Health, Water, Sanitation & Nutrition Program



In the year 2019 four projects were implemented.

- a. **Sustainable WASH Services in Sanghar and Thatta under Telehone Campaign**
- b. **Safe Drinking Water Project in Mirpurkhas**
- c. **Improve resilience of 6,400 drought affected families in district Umerkot through Emergency WASH Assistance**
- d. **Social Mobilization for ODF in Mirpurkhas district**

6.1 Sustainable WASH Assistance Program in district Sanghar and Thatta

This project aimed to provide safe and sustainable drinking water and sanitation facilities to 91,567 right holders in eight union councils of Taluka Khipro of District Sanghar. Following were the major achievements of project.

Provision of Safe Water

Ensuring easy access of right holders to sustainable water supply services, the project has completed 305 water schemes, including;

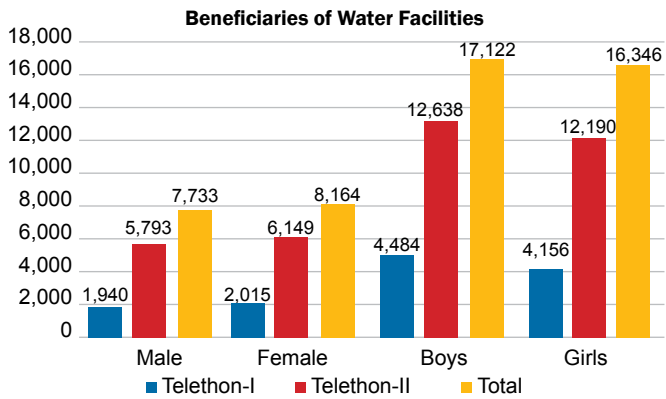
- Six communal solar powered water supply schemes were completed
- Installation of 95 new Hand pumps with lead line.
- Rehabilitated three old water reservoirs connected with lead line.
- Installed 90 direct bore new hand pumps and rehabilitated 185 dysfunctional hand pumps.

- Two reservoirs constructed with lead line hand pumps to provide water at the doorstep.
- 40 rain water harvesting tanks constructed locally called tankas.

Stakeholders Reflecting on WASH Project

RDF has been making tangible contributions towards sixth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), which is about clean water and sanitation. These target-based contributions have improved sanitation and hygiene of thousands of people in different districts like Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Dadu and Tharparkar. To make future WASH related plans more outcome-oriented, a Lessons Learned Workshop was conducted, jointly by NCA and RDF. People who have been part of WASH projects, in any way, were invited to reflect on program design and cross-cutting themes. Participants termed Solarized lead-line hand pump, WASH O&M funds, up-grading skills of communities and Fuel-efficient stoves as sustainable and highly beneficial interventions.





Water Quality: Water quality tests were conducted by RDF project teams following the standards of water quality. Based on the water quality results, sites for water facilities were selected. Around 511 sites were finalized after water quality tests on biological and chemical parameters.

Water Conservation Awareness Campaigns: In addition to provision of water facilities to vulnerable communities, the project also raised awareness on water issues and conservation. More than 30 public campaigns were held in shape of rallies, gatherings, and celebration of universal days. Thousands of community members participated and obtained knowledge of water rights, water cleaning and conservation strategies. Additionally 15 trainings on indigenous water treatment methods were also held, attended by 522 community activists.

the cost, have built their own toilets, even with adding the sock pit and septic tanks. To facilitate the adoption and continuous use of toilets, local vendors were motivated through formal meetings to sell the sanitary items, in result 48 vendors made available the sanitation items at their shops while 116 local mason were also capacitated with technique and skill of executing the participatory toilet design. Persons with Disabilities of the area were also beneficiaries of safe sanitation, as 177 PWDs are provided with portable commode chairs according handicap standards.



Hygiene Promotion and DRR:

To improve hygiene practices and knowledge on DRR, the project organized hygiene promotion campaigns at the villages, cluster and school level. Through these events around 49,400 individuals of 104 villages, have enhanced their knowledge. RDF developed the IEC material to use in these promotion campaigns. For wider coverage, hygiene messages are also broadcasted for a month on FM 105 radio services of district Sanghar.. Additionally to provide knowledge about better preparedness against flood, fire-incidences, drought, heat stroke and snake-bite case, the relevant messages were part of radio campaigns. RDF in 2019 trained 200 community members through 08 trainings on search and rescue, as well.

Trainings on Smokeless Energy Efficient stoves were conducted in 122 villages, as a result women made 1436 fuel efficient stoves and planted 1,075 trees saplings.



Sanitation and toilet facilities:

To improve access to dignified and sustainable sanitation facilities at household level in remote and vulnerable rural communities, the project implemented component sharing model of toilet construction. Under this model sanitation items for sub structure were provided by the project, while super structure was built by beneficiaries themselves. In this way a total of 470 pour flush latrines were constructed and being used by 6,805 individuals. Adopting the use of toilets other families who can afford

Sustainability and O&M:

Village Development Committee-VDC formation approach was adopted to ensure the participation of the men and women in WASH activities. These committee were made responsible to look after the provided facilities, thus 60 VDC members were trained on operation and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities. Besides, a training cum exposure visit focused on 08 M was also held for district level government officials from line departments, includes the Public Health, local municipal and representative of local elected councils.

6.2 Safe Drinking Water Project Mirpurkhas

To reduce waterborne diseases in rural areas of district Mirpurkhas through improving access to safe drinking water facilities, the project has made following progress:

Providing drinking water

Project meant to benefit the vulnerable farming communities by provision of safe and sustainable drinking water facilities in district Mirpurkhas. So, a total of 124 new water supply facilities provided in rural areas of Mirpurkhas benefitting 19,341 individuals, through new Hand Pumps, water supply schemes with solar panel, additionally repairing or rehabilitating three water supply schemes and 156 hand pumps. For the sustainable use of schemes 180 community members trained on Operation and Maintenance of Water Facilities.



Hygiene Promotion

Hygiene promotion was essential component of this project aiming at sensitizing people to adopt safe hygiene practices in order to be resilient against waterborne diseases. RDF team conducted 247 hygiene promotion sessions in campaigns with participation of communities, the people themselves participated, delivered hygiene key messages and demonstrated the hygiene practices. Kids also actively participated in these campaign held at 90 villages, and demonstrated their routine hygienic practices.

6.3 Improve resilience of 6,400 drought affected families through Emergency WASH Assistance, in district Umerkot

This project provided WASH assistance to 6400 drought affected families in four desert Union Councils of Umerkot District.

Safe Drinking Water Facilities

To ensure adequate, safe and dignified access of the water to drought affected people, water schemes were provided in 120 villages of Umerkot. This led to reduce the migration of drought affected people, saved their time and financial expenditures.

- 12 communal water supply schemes powered through solar panel, using the dug wells were provided in UC Kaplore.
- Fifteen dug-wells were repaired with proper platform, animal troughs and washing pads.
- 8 existing water reservoirs connected with lead line for providing safe water in UC Nabisar were rehabilitated.
- 85 new deep bore hold Hand pumps were installation and rehabilitated 60 dysfunctional hand pumps
- 350 ceramic candle filters provided to 471 families using un-treated open water.

After these water facilities around 35,722 individuals of drought affected areas have access to safe and dignified water for drinking and other domestic purposes. Additionally, thousands of livestock (goats, sheep and camel in majority) own by these communities are drinking water from the improved water schemes.



Water Scheme for Umerkot Dialysis Center

Under the project, a tertiary health care facility the Umerkot Dialysis Center, situated near to Umerkot town, is also provided with “lead line water supply system” to ensure proper supply of water during dialysis process. This will meet drinking and other needs of the center too. Earlier the centre was getting water through tankers and spending on an average Rs. 30,000 per month. Around 150 – 180 dialysis are conducted per month at this centre. Executed in collaboration with PHED and District Management, this scheme is benefitting around 35 kidney patients who were registered during the period of November December 2019.

Sanitation facilities

For addressing the open defecation issue in drought affected areas, sanitation was promoted through awareness and cost sharing model, based on the success and learning of RDF from WASH project in Sanghar. RDF provided the set of sanitary material consisting of essential items, whereas the construction of pit latrine was responsibility of user family. In this way a total of 500 toilets were constructed, and are being used by approximately 1,436 families. Persons with Disabilities of the area were also benefitted in safe sanitation and provided 250 portable commode chairs, as per handicap standards.

Hygiene Promotion

Aimed to improve knowledge and address the poor hygiene practices, hygiene promotion campaigns were organized at villages and cluster of villages. Through these events around 7,982 individuals of 120 villages, have enhance their knowledge on personal, domestic and environmental hygiene.

6.4 Community Led Total Sanitation in Mirpurkhas

Key objective of the project is to make rural communities Open Defecation Free-ODF and bring improvement in hygiene practices through hand-washing in villages of District Mirpurkhas. Project is part of WASH Component of the 'Accelerated Action Plan-AAP' of Govt of Sindh. In year 2019 project achieved following successes.



District Level ODF Committee and Plan

RDF has succeeded to constitute and get notified a 5-member District ODF Committee Mirpurkhas through the District Coordination Committee (DCC).. District Officer Health, District Officer Education, District Officer Social Welfare, Project Manager RDF are the members of the committee, whereas Deputy Director Local Government Department Mirpurkhas

serves as Committee's Chairman.. In year 2019, the DCC has approved District ODF Plan of Mirpurkhas in its meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner.

Sensitization and Mobilization Process in the Villages and Schools

Project adopted the CLTS approach that consists of seven steps taken at village level to reach the ODF status, starting with community contact, triggering session, PRA, identification of local leaders, so on. As key strategy of project, RDF formed village ODF Committee for male and female in 250 villages during 2019. These committees prepared village ODF plans to identify and get possible efforts to resolve the community WASH problems. 3,550 Members of these committees were oriented on how to address the WASH issues and get ODF status, through 271 hygiene sessions. Additionally a WASH need survey also carried out in 300 Government schools, and formed the school WASH clubs at 192 of school. Moreover, in 200 schools, RDF have assessed and started survey on Behavioural Change for hygiene. Next year the schools will be covered for provision of the proper sanitation facilities and hand washing space by local government department through a separate project.

Declaration of ODF villages

After mobilization process in the villages, communities start building/constructing their latrines from the available material as per their capacity. RDF teams provide them the assistance. During 2019, targeted communities constructed 5,773 low cost latrines with available local material. In follow up, RDF continuously guided them on sustainability of pit latrines and on the proper use and maintenance of latrines. Besides, for improving the village hygiene condition 439 village cleaning campaigns were conducted in targeted villages with the organized ODF committees. In result at total of 250 villages, after construction of different models of latrines (i.e. pit, pour flush or septic tank) got the ODF Status notified by district ODF committee in year 2019.



6.5 Food and Nutrition Security Project Tharpakrar

A three years project on Food and Nutrition Security has been completed in 70 villages of Taluka Chachro and Dahili in Tharparkar district and improved household and individual dietary diversity score (HDDS and IDDS).

The project adopted an integrated approach of addressing underlying causes of maternal and child malnutrition in target communities. It has improved households' capacity to locally produce nutrient-rich crop and livestock based food, rainwater harvesting and production of drought resilient agriculture. Community FNS Promoters, TBAs and small entrepreneurs were equipped. The project has skilled youth in various income generating vocations.

Symposium on Food and Nutrition Security: Emerging Challenges and Way Forward

RDF in collaboration with Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and Accelerated Action Plan, P&D Department Govt of Sindh organized a day long symposium on 19th March 2019 in Karachi to discuss emerging challenges in food and nutrition security in Sindh and find out way forward through a collaborative and consultative process with key FNS experts and stakeholders. Representatives of the AAP, Nutrition Security Program, UNICEF, EU PINS, WHH, FAO, LUMHS and relevant civil society

organizations attended the program and talked in various sessions.



Secretary Planning and Development Dr Sheerin Narejo inaugurated the event and appreciated efforts of RDF, WHH and AAP to bring all important stakeholders at one place to discuss emerging challenges of food and nutrition security in the province. Dr Tahir Shahzad Thaeem, Program Manager AAP, Dr Fateh Marri, PC WSIP GOS, Ms Aisha Jamshed, Deputy Country Director of WHH, Dr Beekha Ram Devrajani, VC LUMHS Jamshoro, Ashfaque Soomro, Executive Director RDF and others delivered their papers and talked on various issues and way forwards. Success stories of FNS Program Tharparkar were also presented to the audience.



7. Community Resilience Building



In year 2019, following projects are being implemented to build community resilience in districts of Sandghar and Tharparkar.

- a. **Building Disaster Resilience in Pakistan (BDRP)**
- b. **Food Security and Drought Mitigation Program, Tahsil Dahli Tharparkar**
- c. **Strengthening Climate Resilient Livelihoods in district Sanghar, Sindh**

7.1 Building Disaster Resilience in Pakistan (BDRP)

Community Institutionalization for Disaster Risk Reduction

BDRP project is in progress in 70 villages of Tharparkar to make communities resilient to withstand disasters, particularly the drought. The project has formed 70 Village Based Disaster Management Committees, and their members have been trained on lifesaving skills and HVCRA, during year 2019. These VDMCs were further clubbed at UC level and formed seven UCDMCs in district Tharparkar. These UC level committees are being skilled to take forward the resilience building plan of their communities. Moreover, community Level Emergency Toolkit along with training is provided to handle emergency situation at district level and UC Level structures.

Additionally, School Based DRM component is also implemented in year 2019. A total of 25 middle schools are capacitate to cope with disaster-based issues through training, awareness session and provision of tool kits. At school level, School Emergency Response Teams are formed and trained -provided tool kits as well, to use in case of emergency.



WASH Component

WASH Component is also leading to make communities resilient from any Health and Hygiene issues. During 2019, a total of 75 Community Outreach worker are trained to trickle down the information to communities for promotion of hygiene activities at village level. With

the help of these Community Outreach workers, 140 triggering sessions completed in 70 villages, in result 14 village have been reached to Open Deification Free status.

Additionally, in year 2019 RDF has provided 700 Water Tanks (tankas) while 7 Solar system installed at existing dug wells to pump out and store water to use easily. After having these water resource and storage facilities, target communities will have availability of enough water in dry period. School based WASH is also sub component, and contributed to declare the villages as ODF. In year 2019, children/students of 35 Schools are trained through trainings, awareness campaigns, and equipped with hygiene toolkits. School Wash committees are further educating children personal hygiene.



On Farm Livelihood Intervention

Communities of Tharparkar are mainly dependant on livestock rather than agriculture, thus for improving health and production of livestock, RDF provided services for livestock management and cure. In 2019, 140 youth have been trained as community livestock extension workers, with the collaboration of Sindh Agriculture University, Tando Jam. Added with CLEW training, following services provided to communities under on farm livelihood interventions.



- Vaccination: Total of 43,000 animals (Camels, Cows, Donkeys, sheep and goats) are vaccinated and drenched/ dewormed.
- Livestock management sessions and Livestock destocking sessions have been conducted with the support of government livestock department. A total of 700 Livestock model forms are established for practicing control grazing to save fodder.
- Hay-making, silage-making and 700 hydroponic demonstrations are also introduced as new technology to grow green fodder in controlled environment.
- Wanda feed – the livestock feed was distributed to 2800 livestock owners, in the light of drought situation in year 2019.

Plantation under BDRP

During moon soon season in year 2019, a total of 39,200 trees were planted through agro-forestry campaign, and 8,400 trees at livestock model forms, 16,800 trees within communal gardens, for survival/ grazing purpose of livestock – are planted in 70 villages of Tharparkar.



7.2 Food Security and Drought Mitigation Project, Chachro, District Tharparkar

Project is being implemented in 30 drought affected villages of Taluka Dahili in District Tharparkar, to support target population in mitigating droughts impacts through resilient agriculture and livestock management and ensure food security. Besides, children awareness on climate change, disaster management and child-friendly schooling is key intervention of the project. Around 11,189 men, women and children were facilitated during year 2019, by undertaking following activities.

Use of diversified and resilient livelihoods

The project has developed 20 communal gardens and planted around 2,000 jujube saplings in the villages. The communities were assisted for the vaccination of 1,045 goats and sheep of entero-toxaemia (ETV) and de-wormed with support of Government Livestock Department. so far 200 livestock farmers have conserved their grazing lands for feeding livestock during the dry periods. To increase consumption of nutritious food intake approximately 600 women have developed their kitchen gardens, wherefrom they are getting fresh vegetables and using appropriately.



Conservation of rainwater

Provision of water and water conservation is also key intervention of the project. In year 2019, a total of 200 (units) of rainwater tanks have been constructed to provide drinking water to 1,404 people of 200 families. Besides, safe drinking water is also provided to 508 populations through solar submersible pumps installed on deep dug-well.

Capacity building of communities

In target villages during 2019, 30 village organizations (VOs) have been formed for participatory project implementation. Members of these VOs capacitated through following activities:

- Training: A total of 20 farmers have been trained on Jujube grafting skill to promote jujube gardens in area.
- Exposures visit of 30 communities were arranged to observe and learn on village-level adaptation measures taken by communities of previous phase of project, implemented in 2018.
- FES: 500 community women trained on making energy-efficient stoves were, around 2,024 stoves made by them.

Coordination with Government line-departments

Project is being implemented through close coordination and cooperation with district level line

department especially community development and education department, which is in fact is beneficiary as well of the project activities. In Year 2019, a total of 20 teachers of government primary schools of Taluka Dahli have been trained on teaching climate change to children how to make child friendly school. Additionally, project held 5 Coordination meetings with the officials of Education, Livestock, Social Welfare and Agriculture departments to get their support for joint activities.

In year 2019, officials from the Education Department and Assistant Commissioner participated in international Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Day celebrated by RDF in Dahili. With the support of relevant department 154 community member assisted to get national identity cards as well.



7.3 Strengthening climate-resilient livelihoods in district Sanghar, Sindh

The project was implemented in drought affected areas of District Sanghar, aims to support drought affected populations in introduction of resilient agriculture and livestock management, ensure food security through promoting alternate climate smart techniques of conservation of natural resource.





Organizing communities and capacity building

Project team facilitated communities to form village level organizations and subsequently RDF builds the capacity of office-bearers and members through training on basic record keeping, roles and responsibility, and effective coordination. Later on the Community Organizations have prepared adaptation plans to minimize the risk of climate change effects on their area.



Diversified and resilient livelihoods

In 2019, project facilitated 30 groups of beneficiaries to strengthen their livelihood by providing the matching grants. As per agreed conditions signed by grant recipients they paybacks 20% from their income to support other vulnerable families for income generation.

Moreover, to create trained human resource, a five-days training for Community Livestock Extension Workers (CLEWs) were organized and imparted on livestock management. After training CLEWs during 2019 render their services and vaccinated 4673 animals and treated 772.

In year 2019, project team also facilitated 150 families with kitchen gardening seed for establishing plots to grow vegetable, and establish 14 plots for demonstration of farmers for the adaptation of ecological methods to control the waterlogging.

Water infrastructure

For provision and storage of water, project constructed 04 reservoirs, 200 rainwater harvesting tanks and 02 solar submersible pumps in targeted area to ensure the access to adequate water.

Fuel-efficient stoves in the target communities

Project aimed to reduce the air pollution from the houses and reduce the risk of fire incidents in targeted areas and trained community to make fuel-efficient stoves. 1119 fuel-efficient stoves were made in the year of 2019.



Mobilization of school children and teachers

Project team conducted mobilization meeting with parents for enrolling their out of school children. Organized an exposure visit for primary school teachers in order to see best practices of four model schools of Taluka Jam Nawaz Ali, district Sanghar. Additionally one quiz competition and 11 awareness sessions on climate change awareness conducted.

Networking with stakeholders

Project engaged the agriculture and livestock experts from Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam, who paid 14 visits, and provided their opinions and recommendation for strengthen climate resilient livelihoods. For the technical inputs, project has also engaged 02 graduates from SAU Tando Jam, for undertaking their research work in the field, on topics related to agriculture, livestock, women and disaster mitigation. Besides, Project organized two workshops on climate change and its impact on livelihoods, and one policy rollout workshop at district Sanghar.



Education and Learning Program



Child friendly Quality Education Project has completed its sixth year of implementation, adding up the target of further 10 schools in 2019. Project is being implemented in Taluka Tando Adam, district Sanghar, since the year 2013. The annual progress of the project is as under:

Enrollment of students: Through social mobilization, the project is making efforts to increase enrollment of children in schools, particularly of girls. Resultantly, in 2019 the enrollment of school going aged children has been increased up to 3,134 from 2,525 in 30 Government Primary Schools of Taluka Tando Adam & Jam Nawaz Ali, Sanghar.

Providing Missing Facilities

In year 2019, RDF provided missing facilities, learning material and first aid kits to 10 schools selected in phase III, Playground accessories have also been installed in these schools, to provide a joyful learning environment to children. While at 5 schools follow up support was given to maintenance standard – provided the academic learning material, first aid kit, rehabilitated water and sanitation system, repaired the classroom, boundary walls and provided furniture.

Awareness Raising and Seminars on Education

In 2019, one seminar, two discussion forums and three rallies were conducted to promote girls enrollment, opening of closed schools and provision of missing facilities in the schools.

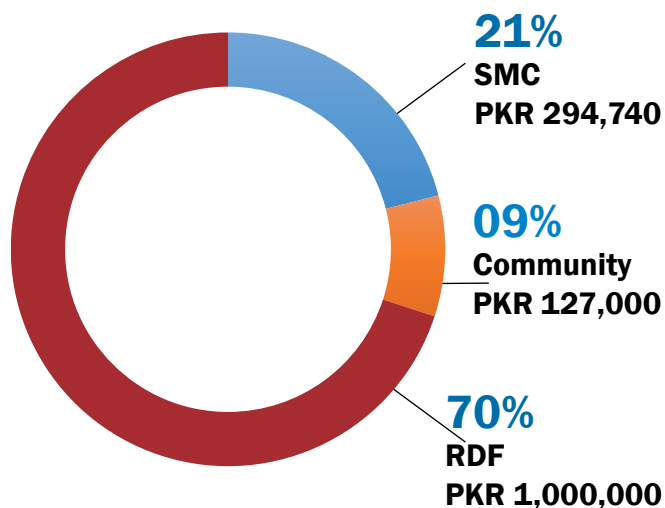
SMC Fund Utilization and Community Co-financing for School Development:

School Development Plans were prepared of 10



Selection of new Schools: Formal survey was conducted to assess the situation of schools to select and add in year 2019 targets. Out of 26 surveyed school, ten schools were chosen having issues those can possibility be addressed from available resource, such as inadequate drinking water facilities; furniture; and insufficient sanitation services.

Government Primary Schools. Project maintained a strong coordination with SMCs and communities in order to review and renew 'School Development Plans' and then supported financially to implement these development plans as well. 100% SMC funds in these schools were used as co-finance in school development, while parents have also supported 9% cost of total in school improvement.



Teacher’s skills in content knowledge

To enhance teachers skills in ‘content knowledge – Language, Mathematics and Science through training and teaching; 20 training and 20 refresher training as follow-ups were organized at Tando Adam. A total of 25 teachers participated from 10 schools. Along with training and refresher, all 10 schools were provided the learning material, includes items to use for teaching Mathematics, Science, Social studies and Languages. Furthermore, the teachers are trained on how to use teaching aids and learning material in class room.



Training of SMC Members and Parents

Trainings were also conducted for 43 SMCs members of 10 schools select in phase III, to ensure their involvement in school improvement activities, school management, decision making, first aid and proper utilization of first aid kit.

Co-curriculum Activities:

Different activities were carried out with children including celebrations of national and international days to highlight the importance of these day. Four national days i.e. Pakistan Resolution Day, Independence Day and Allama Iqbal day are celebrated, and one International DRR day. Additionally, 49 Inter-school competitions were conducted in targeted schools.

Different awareness sessions for students also conducted includes 10 hygiene sessions, 10 child protection sessions, indoor game sessions, improvement of reading habits, writing and speaking sessions, syllabus follow-up as per subject division through oral questioning.



Exposure Visit for Teachers:

School teachers have been facilitated with exposure visits 02 times in this reporting year, one visit was made to one of the prominent school system at Hyderabad to observe the latest learning techniques and school environment. Second visit was made to two schools of Taluka Jam Nawaza, where RDF in previous phases, improve the school’s facilities (i.e GBPS Rahmania Rajput, and GBPS Akk Gaho). A total of 25 teachers, 16 from UC Kumb Dharoon and 7 from UC Mitho Khoso) and Taluka Education Officer female were engaged in visits.



9.

Networking

Global Annual Meeting of Charter for Change (C4C)



RDF is an endorser of the Charter for Change; an international initiative, led by both National and International NGOs, to practically implement changes to the way the Humanitarian System operates to enable more locally-led response. The Charter for Change includes 8 Commitments that INGOs agree to implement, to address imbalances and inequality in the global humanitarian system.

Mr. Ashfaque, Executive Director of RDF participated in the annual meeting of the Charter for Change, held on 10-11 December in Copenhagen, Denmark. So far 34 endorsers from local organizations and 32 signatory representatives of the INGOs attended meeting and drafted an action plan to promote localization of humanitarian aid at national and international level. Kindernothilfe (KNH) invited and supported participation of RDF to this august forum.

Regional Conservation Forum of IUCN Members



REGIONAL
CONSERVATION
FORUM
PAKISTAN

6-8 November 2019, Islamabad

IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum was held on 6-8 November 2019 in Islamabad, where RDF being member of the IUCN actively participated. Mr. Niaz Hussain Sial represented RDF at this forum.

Approximately 500 representatives of governments, NGOs and the business sector from across Asia came together in Islamabad and discussed how they can work together to deal with Asia's pressing environmental issues, share best practices, and make decisions on a joint programme of action to improve how societies manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.

Our Valued Partners



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