

Quarterly Highlights

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Teachers Recruitment for EMO Schools District Jacobabad

RDF partnered with SIBA Testing Service (STS) to recruit skilled school-based and project staff. The recruitment process was promptly launched following the partners' orientation session. Advertisements for staff hiring were published in Daily *Kawish* and other local newspapers, and shared via Facebook pages and local WhatsApp groups. On July 21, 2024, a written test was conducted at IBA University and Public School in Sukkur. Shortlisted candidates then participated in interviews with RDF's senior management and subject experts, held at the Project Office in Sukkur from August 14-16, with additional interviews on August 31. This comprehensive process marks an important step in building a strong and dedicated team to further RDF's mission.



Launch of RDF's Public-Private Partnership Initiative in Jacobabad

The Research and Development Foundation (RDF), in partnership with the Sindh Education and Literacy Department, is pleased to announce the official launch of its initiative to manage 16 government schools in Jacobabad, Sindh, under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The formal handover of these schools took place on 22nd-23rd February 2024.

This transformative project will be implemented through the Educational Management Organization (EMO), with the primary goal of enhancing educational outcomes in the region. Key objectives include increasing student enrollment, improving the quality of education, and fostering a supportive and positive learning environment. Through these efforts, the initiative aims to drive significant improvements in educational accessibility and standards, contributing to the long-term development of the region.



Orientation Session for New EMO School Staff in Jacobabad

An introductory meeting was conducted at Government High School Adam Khan Panhwar with the newly appointed school-based staff under the EMO Schools Project, managed by the Research and Development Foundation (RDF) on 27-11-2024 at Jacobabad.

The primary objective of this session was to introduce the newly appointed staff to the RDF EMO Schools mission, vision, and operational framework. It provided an overview of the organization's core values, goals, and performance expectations, ensuring a smooth transition and effective integration into the school environment. This session aligns the team with RDF's commitment to educational excellence, fostering continuous improvement in teaching standards and learning outcomes in the region.



Agreement Signing Ceremony

The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) and Research Development Foundation (RDF) signed a partnership agreement on June 10, 2024, at Public School Hyderabad, where Mayor Kashif Shoro honored the event as Chief Guest. Mr. Mushtaq Soomro, Regional Director SEF and Mr. Arshad Danwar, Executive Director of RDF linked the project agreement between RDF and SEF. Through the Adolescent and Adult Learning and Training Program (AALTP), SEF and RDF will provide accelerated education for vulnerable adolescents, basic functional literacy for adults, and a certified skills development/vocational training course.



Teacher Training at People's School Mirpur Bathoro

Provision of Renewable Energy in Schools



Under the PPP Node project, 12 schools in Jacobabad have been equipped with advanced solar systems to address the issue of limited electricity supply due to load shedding and to create a comfortable learning and teaching environment. These systems power classrooms, water and sanitation facilities, fans, and lights, enhancing the learning environment while reducing dependence on the grid and promoting sustainability. Additionally, this initiative supports the promotion of girls' education by providing a more reliable and conducive atmosphere for learning, especially in underserved areas.



From August 8th to 10th, 2024, a three-day training session was held at People's School Mirpur Bathoro to help teachers improve their skills in managing classrooms, adapting lessons to different student needs, and using technology in teaching. The training included hands-on activities and group discussions, giving teachers practical tools to make learning more engaging and effective. This program aimed to strengthen teaching practices, ultimately benefiting students and supporting the school's goals.

Independence Day Celebration at People's School Mirpur Bathoro

On August 14, 2024, People's School Mirpur Bathoro celebrated Pakistan's 77th Independence Day with

great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. The event included cultural programs, national songs, speeches, and tableaux performed by students. This celebration aimed to promote patriotism, unity, and a sense of belonging among students and staff. The day was a resounding success, national pride and teamwork as students showcased their creativity and leadership through their performances, reinforcing the values of love for their country.



achievements, and challenges, focusing on key areas for development and student engagement. The SEF team reviewed the academic environment, facilities, and overall operations, exchanging insights with the principal on how to further improve the school. This visit strengthened the partnership between SEF and People's School Dhoro Naro in their shared goal of providing quality education.



Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM)

On October 16, 2024, People's School Dhoro Naro held its first Parent-Teacher Meeting, where parents expressed appreciation for their children's progress and praised the efforts of the school's management, teachers, and staff. Parents also provided valuable suggestions to further enhance the school as a place of learning.



SEF visit at People's School Dhoro Naro

On September 4, 2024, Mr. Ali Muhammad Shehwani, Regional Manager, along with Ms. Parveen Umar, District Coordinator of the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), visited People's School Dhoro Naro. During the visit, Principal Umair Ali discussed the school's progress,

Policy Seminar on Clean Energy and Resilient Infrastructure in Sindh



On September 30, 2024, a provincial-level policy seminar on Renewable Energy & Climate-Resilient Infrastructure gathered 120 attendees, including policymakers, business representatives, officials, CSOs, and community leaders. Key speakers included Mr. Fazal Noor, Associate Professor at SSUET Karachi, Engineer Faheemullah Shaikh from MUET Jamshoro, and Professor Javed Shah. The seminar aimed to raise awareness of the SDGs and discuss challenges and contributions in advancing renewable energy and climate-resilient infrastructure locally. Panelists and participants recommended upgrading rural housing through public-private partnerships and enhancing technical capabilities for climate adaptation in housing, promoting a collaborative approach toward sustainable development.

Stakeholder Consultative meeting on Energy Infrastructure Climate Change Resilience and Community Preparedness

Two district-level consultation events were organized in Tando Allahyar and Sanghar on July 11, 2024, and August 9, 2024. The events aimed to bring together civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, public sector institutions, and private sector stakeholders to discuss ways to promote clean energy and climate-resilient infrastructure. The discussions generated recommendations that were documented, leading to the development of a comprehensive plan with achievable tasks for establishing a Renewable Energy and Climate Resilient Infrastructure platform to address the energy crisis and climate impacts.



Workshop to develop a Stakeholder Strategy for Urban Food Systems

RDF, with support from WHH, held a one-day workshop on September 19 at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad, to develop a Stakeholders Engagement Strategy for Urban Food Systems. The event brought together government officials, civil society, academia, and food sector representatives, including Municipal Commissioner Ms. Marvi Soomro and experts from various organizations. The workshop included an overview of the Urban Food Production Project, key sessions on stakeholder integration in urban food security, and a panel discussion on enhancing collaboration. RDF also presented its Cultivating Partnerships strategy, fostering dialogue on creating long-term engagement mechanisms. This workshop was a significant step toward building a collaborative approach to sustainable urban food systems.



Provision of dairy farming kits for 100 households

During the reporting period, the project successfully provided dairy farming kits to 100 households. These kits included essential items such as automatic milk meters, five 40-liter aluminum milk cans, wheelbarrows, and shovels for cleaning stalls. This initiative aims to enhance the dairy production capabilities of pastoralist families with experience in animal husbandry, particularly those in semi-urban slums. By equipping them with these tools, the project supports improved practices and market access, ultimately strengthening their livelihoods.



Distribution of Toolkit and Certificates

On August 19, 2024, RDF distributed toolkits and certificates to youth trained under the TVET project at ZABTech Gharo, in collaboration with the Trade Testing Board Karachi. The event was graced by Mr. Mohammad Ali Malkani, Minister for Universities and Boards, as the Chief Guest. Additionally, on September 5, 2024, toolkits and certificates were distributed to students specializing in Beautician and Tailoring at the Center of Excellence in Kotri, with Mr. Riaz Hussain Wassan, Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro, serving as the Chief Guest. Both events aimed to equip students with essential tools to start their own businesses and generate sustainable income.



Story Change Workshop

The "Story Change Workshop" held on August 9, 2024, at We-Care Hall Makli in District Thatta, was a pivotal event under the project titled "Strengthening The Socio-Economic

Resilience Of Youth By Promoting Their Economic Self-Reliance in the three provinces of Pakistan.” Organized by the Research and Development Foundation (RDF) with support from Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the workshop brought together representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), project participants, and community members to share their experiences and insights. The session provided a platform for discussing the impact of the skill development programs, the role of CSOs changing in the life of trained youth.



Field farmer Session

The project team organized Farmer Field Days in district Mirpurkhas to strengthen flood resilience and enhance water access for local farmers. Part of the Strengthening the Resilience of Flood-Affected Communities in Pakistan project, these sessions provided practical training in sustainable farming and resource management. Farmers participated in field demonstrations, learning best practices and exchanging knowledge to improve crop production and build resilience against climate challenges.

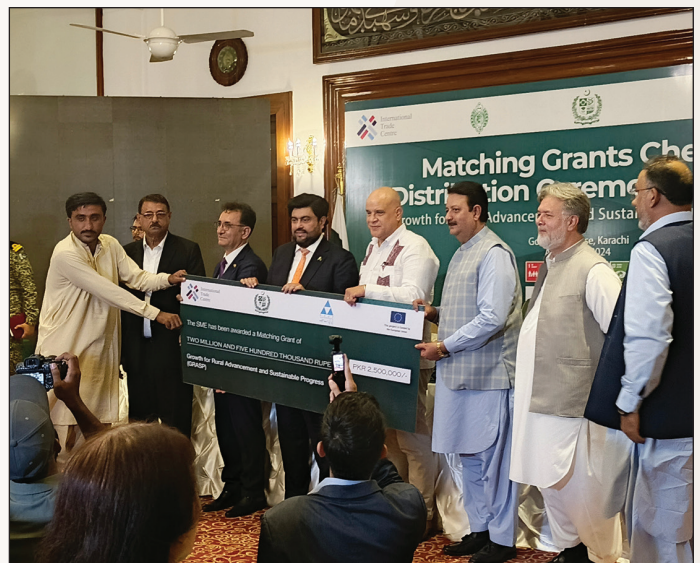


Rehabilitation of community physical infrastructure (CPI) through cash-for-work.



In a significant stride toward community-driven development, the cash-for-work initiative in Taluka Shujabad, District Mirpurkhas, has successfully completed the rehabilitation and construction of critical infrastructure under the project Strengthening the Resilience of Flood-Affected Communities in Pakistan to Enhance Water Access and Flood Resilience. This project, focused on empowering local communities through direct engagement and income support, has addressed essential needs related to water access and flood resilience. Through concerted efforts, 79 hand pumps were installed, 68 culverts constructed, and 166 outlets established. Additionally, four ponds were developed, and two sites were rehabilitated. This community-driven effort not only improved essential resources but also created local employment, strengthening the community's capacity to face environmental challenges.

Cheque Distribution Ceremony of 3rd Cycle Matching Grants awardees at The Governor House Sindh, Karachi



A Cheque Distribution Ceremony of 3rd Cycle Matching Grants held at the Governor House Sindh, Karachi, organized by Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund. The event was graced by Mr. Kamran Tessori, Governor of Sindh, as the Chief Guest. During the event Cheques were awarded to five SMEs from RDF's 3rd cycle of Matching Grants. Four SMEs received 0.5 million each, and one SME received 2.5 million. Furthermore, Two SMEs from RDF's 2nd cycle set up stalls to showcase their businesses and were the visited by the Governor of Sindh, the Ambassador of Tajikistan, Mr. Nadir Gul, CEO PPAF and Mr. Arshad Ali Danwar, the Executive Director of the RDF. The SMEs were gifted with PKR Ten Thousand each as a token of appreciation from the Governor of Sindh.

Awareness Seminar on Access to Finance & Insurance

The project team in District Sujawal organized an awareness seminar on Access to Finance & Insurance. The event successfully brought together the Project SMEs, FCBS members, representatives from various Banks, financial institutions, and key government officials. The objective of the seminar focused to aware participants about the opportunities available in microfinancing, loans, and insurance. A panel discussion was also arranged where experts from the financial sector and government agencies shared their insights on Access to Finance(A2F) and its resources



A Visit by the Better Cotton Global Team



The Better Cotton Global team, including Christina Martin (Senior Program Manager), Rameez Ghouri (Partnership Coordinator, Pakistan), and Fakhar Zaman (Better Cotton Pakistan), visited the project field area. During their visit, the team engaged with male and female farmers, encouraging them to share their experiences. They explored kitchen gardening plots established with RDF's support, which serve as vital sources of sustainable food production and income for the farmers' families. The team also visited a demonstration plot showcasing sustainable agricultural techniques, including the use of bio-pesticides, barriers, sticky traps, and pheromone traps. This plot exemplifies RDF's commitment to reducing chemical pesticide use and promoting environmentally friendly cotton farming practices.

Exposure visits of BCI registered farmers

An exposure visits were organized for male and female farmers under the "Better Cotton Production Through Climate Resilient Practices with the Inclusion of Women Farmers" project in Tando Adam Taluka, District Sanghar. A group of 30 to 35 selected female farmers visited key institutions, including the Drainage and Reclamation Institute of Pakistan (DRIP), the Central Cotton Research Institute, and the Agriculture Research Institute. These visits focused on showcasing best practices in soil health and cotton pest management. Farmers engaged with experts, asking questions about soil and water testing and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), aiming to enhance their agricultural knowledge and skills for improved productivity.



Construction of Solar-Powered Water Supply Schemes in Sanghar District



The project team has successfully constructed solar-powered water supply schemes in the villages of Qasim Bhatti and Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, addressing the critical need for safe drinking water in the Sanghar district with the support of NCA project. These schemes provide easy access to clean water for a total of 304 families and 1,543 individuals, improving water availability at their doorsteps. The schemes utilize solar technology to efficiently fetch water from deep underground sources, ensuring a sustainable solution to the community's long-standing water challenges.

Tree Plantation Drive 2024

During the report period, RDF planted 7,500 saplings in the villages of Taluka Sinjhor, District Sanghar. This tree plantation drive aims to improve air quality and fight climate change by providing oxygen and reducing pollution. The initiative involved schools, youth groups, and local farmers to raise awareness about the importance of planting trees. The saplings included Neem, Sukh Chain, Moringa, Gul Mohar, and Lemon, which were distributed among community members and farmers. This effort promotes a healthier environment and encourages community involvement in caring for the trees.



Construction of Water Supply Scheme



NCA representatives Mr. Zohaib, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, and Mr.

Mazhar Ali inaugurated key infrastructure projects, including a drinking water hand pump in Village Abu Bakar Malkani and a culvert with water course in Village Moosa Mehar, UC Jhuluri. The team also met with local communities to review the projects' impact and community engagement. The purpose of the visit was to review the completed schemes, observe changes in community behavior, and evaluate the community's enhanced capabilities as a result of the project. The team also aimed to assess the project's impact, gather case studies, and identify lessons learned from the initiatives.

Distribution of Basic Shelter KIT

RDF, with support from NCA, distributed 110 basic shelter kits to flood-affected families in Village Qaim Kheral, Village Muhammad Khan Chandio, Village Qasim Mastoi, Karam Ali Chandio, and Jalal Lund in UC Siyal, Taluka, and District Dadu. The project aimed to provide vital relief to families facing the challenges of displacement and damage due to recent floods. Each kit includes essential items to support temporary shelter construction, aiming to enhance these vulnerable communities' immediate safety and well-being.



Exposure Visit of women federation members to Multan to learn from practices of others

Ten members of the Sada Bahar Federation visited the Anmol Federation, facilitated by the Raasti Organization under Kindernohtilfe support. Raasti presented on Anmol's achievements and the sustainability of Self-Help Groups

(SHGs). The Sada Bahar members engaged in a Q&A session about methodologies and women's economic empowerment. They shared challenges and successes, highlighting their goat business and plans for an animal farm in Sanghar district, stressing the importance of capacity building for sustainability.



Module Refresher Training for federation members



The three-day training on organizational management, attended by 32 core members of the federation, focused on enhancing governance, leadership, financial management, and sustainability. Participants engaged in strategic planning, goal setting, and SWOT analyses to establish clear objectives. They explored effective leadership styles and principles of good governance for transparency and accountability. The financial management sessions covered budgeting, reporting, and resource mobilization, while discussions on sustainability addressed diverse funding sources and risk management.

Chickpea Seed Distribution in Nai Gajj, Taluka Johi

On October 15th and 16th, 2024, chickpea seeds were given to local farmers in the Nai Gajj area of Taluka Johi, District Dadu with the support of metameta. This is the first time chickpea seeds have been distributed, which mainly relies on seasonal floods for irrigation because there are no traditional systems. A total of 48 farmers received 10 kg of seeds each, helping to introduce new crops and improve farming in a challenging environment. This initiative aims to boost food security and support the farmers' livelihoods in the community.



RDF's Valued partners



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION-RDF

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