



# 2023

## Annual Report

**AICS Islamabad**







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Islamabad Office**

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**credits**

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AICS Islamabad staff - support and revision

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*I am pleased to present the 2023 edition of the AICS Islamabad Annual Report. This marks my inaugural year as Head of Office in Pakistan. I have taken over a legacy of comprehensive and significant array of initiatives, which I hope that this report will be able to describe.*

*In 2023, our focus has been twin-fold: continuing our support for key sectors of Italian intervention in Pakistan, namely agriculture, environment, and cultural heritage, through ongoing project activities, and revitalizing soft loan programs designed in partnership with the Economic Affairs Division at Pakistan's Ministry of Economic Affairs. Additionally, we embarked on the development of new project proposals to further reinforce the results achieved.*

*The operational framework of AICS Islamabad aligns with the Theory of Change, identifying three distinct outcomes aimed at ensuring food security, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and fostering economic development with a focus on an offer of self-aware and sustainable tourism.*

*Certainly, such results would not have been possible without the collaborative staff at AICS Islamabad, whose composition is outlined in the December year-end organogram featured in the Annual Report. I also express gratitude to our Italian, international, and local partners implementing our projects and serving as reliable professionals in the development cooperation sector.*

*Finally, I extend a special acknowledgement to His Excellency Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese, whose tenure concluded in January 2024. I offer my best wishes for success to Her Excellency Ambassador Marilina Armellin, who has assumed this role, reaffirming AICS Islamabad's unwavering commitment to achieving new and significant milestones.*



*Francesco Zatta*  
*Head of Office*

# *Pakistan at crossroads: a struggle for development amidst challenges*

Pakistan, with a population of 241.49 million [1], stands as **the world's fifth most populous country**, and it grapples with countless complex issues that demand urgent attention and strategic intervention.

With a GDP per capita of \$1,536 and a global ranking of 160 [2], **Pakistan is entrenched in multidimensional poverty condition** [3], affecting 38.3% of its citizens, particularly prevalent in the regions of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan. The urban landscape tells a stark tale, as 37.44% of the population resides in cities, with over one-half struggling in slums. Life expectancy at birth averages at 66.1 years, with disparities between genders - 68.6 for women and 63.8 for men [4].

The **Human Development Index** (HDI) paints a somber picture, positioning Pakistan at 161 out of 191 countries, designating it as part of the "Low Human Development" category [5].

Classified as a **"medium-low income" and semi-industrialized nation**, in 2023 Pakistan reported an unemployment rate of 8.5% [6]. Notably, a significant portion of its total employment, approximately 80%, was derived from the informal economy.

[1] Update August 5, 2023: [Microsoft Word - Result announcement Final.docx \(pbs.gov.pk\)](#)

[2] [GDP per capita - Countries - List | Asia \(tradingeconomics.com\)](#)

[3] Multidimensional Poverty Approach calculates if an individual is living in one or more poverty dimensions, according to 5 parameters combined with the intensity of deprivations: (1) Family education conditions, (2) Childhood and youth conditions, (3) Work, (4) Health, (5) Access to basic services. Pakistan scored 0.198 in the last evaluation.

[4] World Bank Database, [Pakistan - Social Development](#), updated on June 27, 2023

[5] [Human Development Index | Human Development Reports](#) (undp.org)

[6] <https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/LUR@WEO/PAK>





In the realm of gender equality, Pakistan falters, ranking 142 out of 146 countries according to the Gender Gap Global Index 2022. Despite constitutional provisions for gender equality, **discrimination and violence against women persist unchecked.**

While adult literacy rates show improvement, especially for women, with a rise from 41% in 2010 to 46.9% in 2019, the employment disparity is glaring. In 2022, **only 24.6% of women above 15 years old were actively employed**, compared to a striking 80.9% of men in the workforce [7].

Agricultural sector is essential to Pakistan's growth, employment, poverty reduction and food security. **Agriculture contributes to more than 20% of GDP**, employing about 40% of the workforce, 68% of whom are women, and is the main source of livelihood in rural areas. However, the sector is undermined by significant challenges, including inefficiency in land use and water management, waste, and low productivity causing the inability to meet a growing demand for food all over the country.

[7] World Bank Database, Pakistan - Social Development, updated on 27/06/2023.



Girls school in Bahwalpur, Punjab Province  
Support to Girls Right of Education and Safeguarding  
Cultural Heritage through Education in Pakistan  
AID 010875/01/2



Alarming **statistics reveal that 42.4% of the population lacks food security**, and 36.7% of children below 5 years suffer from stunting [8].

The water crisis adds to the nation's woes, with **35.8% of the population lacking access to clean and potable water**, leading to widespread diseases, especially among mothers and children.

The looming threat of a decrease in water availability per capita to 800m<sup>3</sup> by 2025, falling below the international standard of 1,000m<sup>3</sup> defining water scarcity [9], compounds the challenges.

June 2022 brought **unprecedented heavy rains and floods** across Pakistan, causing substantial human losses and crippling public and private infrastructures. Approximately 33 million people were affected, leading to 8 million internally displaced persons. As observed at the end of 2022, 600,000 people endured severe consequences, residing in camps with limited access to basic services. **By the dawn of 2023, around 20 million people found themselves in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.**

Pakistan standing as **one of the most affected nations by extreme natural events**, according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021.

[8] FAOSTAT, Suite of Food Security Indicators, (July 2023)

[9] Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027: [mip-2021-c2021-8992-pakistan-annex\\_en.pdf](#)  
([aics.gov.it](#))





In the face of these daunting challenges, the "**Pakistan 2025 – One Nation, One Vision**" [10] aims to seek to define the country's development strategy by adopting Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Published by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), the **National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023** delves into specific strategies to cope with climate change and develop resilience against its dire consequences.

This plan aims to build a prosperous and climate-resilient future through a joint and coordinated action with national and international stakeholders. Pakistan can not only mitigate growing risks, but also seize the **opportunities for sustainable and inclusive economic growth in priority sectors** such as agriculture, water and natural resources management, urban and human capital development.

Therefore, NAP defines 3 specific objectives:

- Supporting vulnerable groups in strengthening risk management ability;
- Enhancing capacities by promoting climate-resilient livelihoods;
- Foster participation in climate-related policies and development planning.

[10] <https://www.pc.gov.pk/uploads/vision2025/Pakistan-Vision-2025.pdf>

Worker in a brick kiln in Faisalabad, Punjab Region

*Promotion of Decent Employment Opportunities  
for the Economic Strengthening of the  
Vulnerable Segments of Society*

AID 011196/01/0



@Numan Muhammad/ICO

# *Development approach for addressing challenges in Pakistan*

In the agrarian landscapes of rural Pakistan, a plethora of challenges hinders the development of robust farming conditions, resulting in a distressingly **low agricultural productivity rate**.

The issues at hand encompass **incomplete production processes**, ranging from the absence of certified seed and efficient irrigation systems to misguided manuring and phyto-sanitary practices. Furthermore, the lack of appropriate equipment and know-how for processing rural products, insufficient diversification of plants, and concentration of harvesting within a limited period exacerbate the predicament.

Notably, **farmers and livestock breeders struggle with low technical skills**, while access to veterinary assistance remains a scarce resource.





Compounding these woes are the far-reaching consequences of climate change, rendering Pakistan vulnerable to natural disasters. **Floods, change of rain pattern, heatwaves, melting glaciers, drought, erosions, earthquakes, and landslides have collectively cast a shadow over the agricultural landscape**, posing a formidable threat to the nation.

In response to these pressing challenges, **the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation has undertaken a concerted effort to support Pakistan**. The overarching objective is to bolster farming communities by addressing critical issues such as enhancing value chains, cultivating valuable products, fortifying irrigation schemes, and providing support to the most vulnerable communities. Additionally, the initiatives seek to propagate new and flexible farming techniques.

In recent years, AICS Islamabad has intensified its presence in areas where it was already engaged, with **a particular focus on the mountainous regions in the North**, spearheading cross-cutting development programs that span environmental protection, agriculture, irrigation, breeding, and the creation of job opportunities, including ventures into eco-tourism. AICS Islamabad envisions **rural development through the lens of climate change and its far-reaching consequences**.





To delineate its key objectives, AICS Islamabad is implementing the **Theory of Change's principles and methods**. This strategic approach aligns with Italian priorities outlined in the three-year planning program and within the broader framework of Agenda 2030.

The Italian Cooperation has identified three distinct outcomes, as listed below, each intricately linked to its actions in Pakistan. These outcomes encapsulate **a comprehensive strategy to uplift and fortify the agricultural sector while navigating the challenges posed by climate change**:

#### **PERSON, Outcome 1 (SDG 2)**

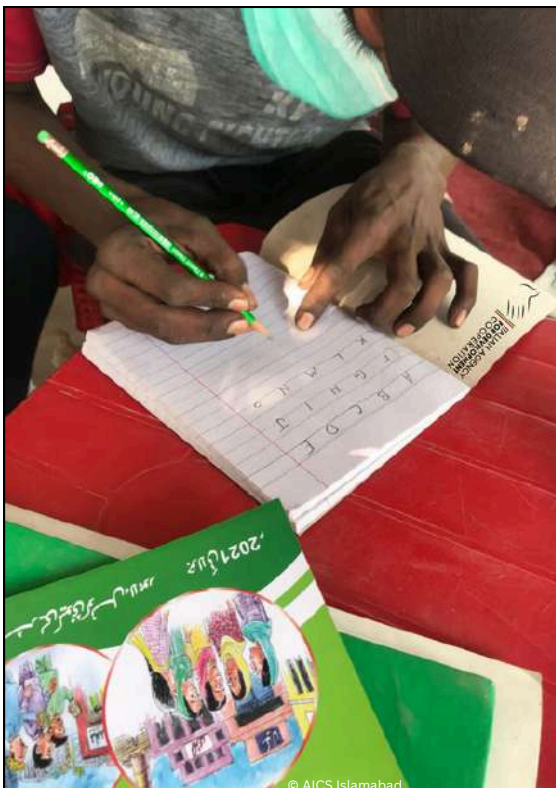
*Guaranteed food security and supported resilient and sustainable agro-food production systems, promoting connections between nutrition and health*

#### **PLANET, Outcome 2 (SDG 13.1)**

*Strengthened resilience and adaptation to climate-related risks and natural disasters*

#### **PROSPERITY, Outcome 3 (SDG 8.9 – 11.4)**

*Enhanced cultural and natural heritage promotion, support economic activities and job creation for sustainable and responsible culture and tourism*



# Projects, sectors and partnership

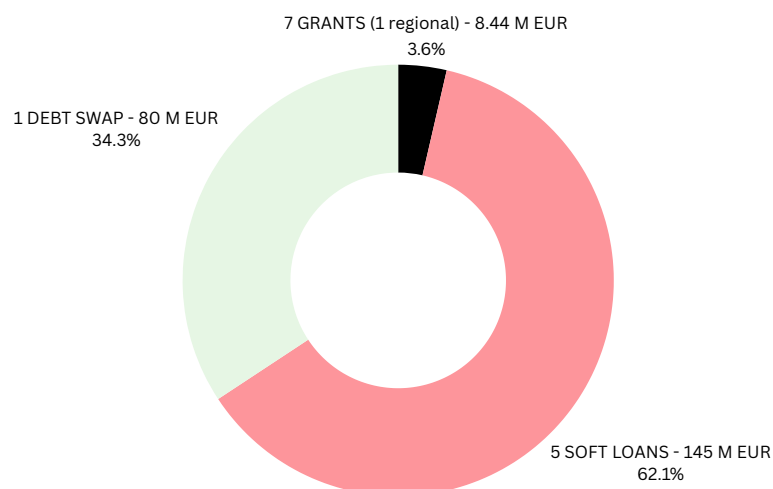
AICS Islamabad portfolio includes:

- **7 projects on main funding channel**, 1 at regional level, in partnership with International Organizations;
- **5 soft loans programmes** – 3 approved, 1 in repurposing phase and 1 in pipeline;
- **1 Debt Swap Programme**, that allowed to implement 48 development projects all over the country.

**Soft loans** are designed and implemented in partnership with the *Economic Affairs Division (EAD)* at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, which represents the main counterpart and coordinates the joint efforts by different federal ministries and local authorities.

**Grant projects** are carried out by International Organizations such as UNDP, UNESCO, CIHEAM Bari, ILO and IUCN in partnership with national and local organizations.

**AICS Islamabad is also part of working groups** coordinated by the European Union Delegation in Pakistan, United Nations Agencies and World Bank, focusing on development issues and humanitarian aid as well. AICS Islamabad also takes part to the donors coordination meetings held by Pakistan's Government, *International Partnership Support Group* and *Development Cooperation Coordination Fora*.





## Food security and sustainable agro-food production

- *Enhancement of production quality and main value-chains*
- *Introduction of non-farm activities*
- *Training for isolated communities in the mountain regions*

- *Development and set-up of new irrigation methods*
- *Protection of biodiversity*
- *Support to scientific research*
- *Support to communities severely affected by floods*

## Adaptation to climate-related risks

## Cultural and Natural Heritage promotion

- *Enhance awareness on the importance of cultural heritage for youth in rural areas*
- *Fostering models of responsible tourism*
- *Involvement of local communities in decision-making processes*
- *Decent work and just transition for vulnerable communities*



Economic  
Affairs  
Division,  
Government  
of Pakistan



## february

AICS Director General,  
Luca Maestriperi on  
mission to Pakistan



## march

Francesco Zatta is  
appointed as AICS  
Islamabad's Head of Office



# AICS Islamabad in 2023

## april

Signed the BISP project agreement  
for food security of mothers and  
children in the vulnerable districts of  
Baluchistan



## june

Third "OliveCulture"  
project steering  
committee meeting



## july

Multi-stakeholder  
meeting focusing on  
climate change



## september

A seminar in Karachi to present  
the main activities of the  
Italian Cooperation in Pakistan



## october

"Radio Education" project  
signed in partnership with  
UNESCO

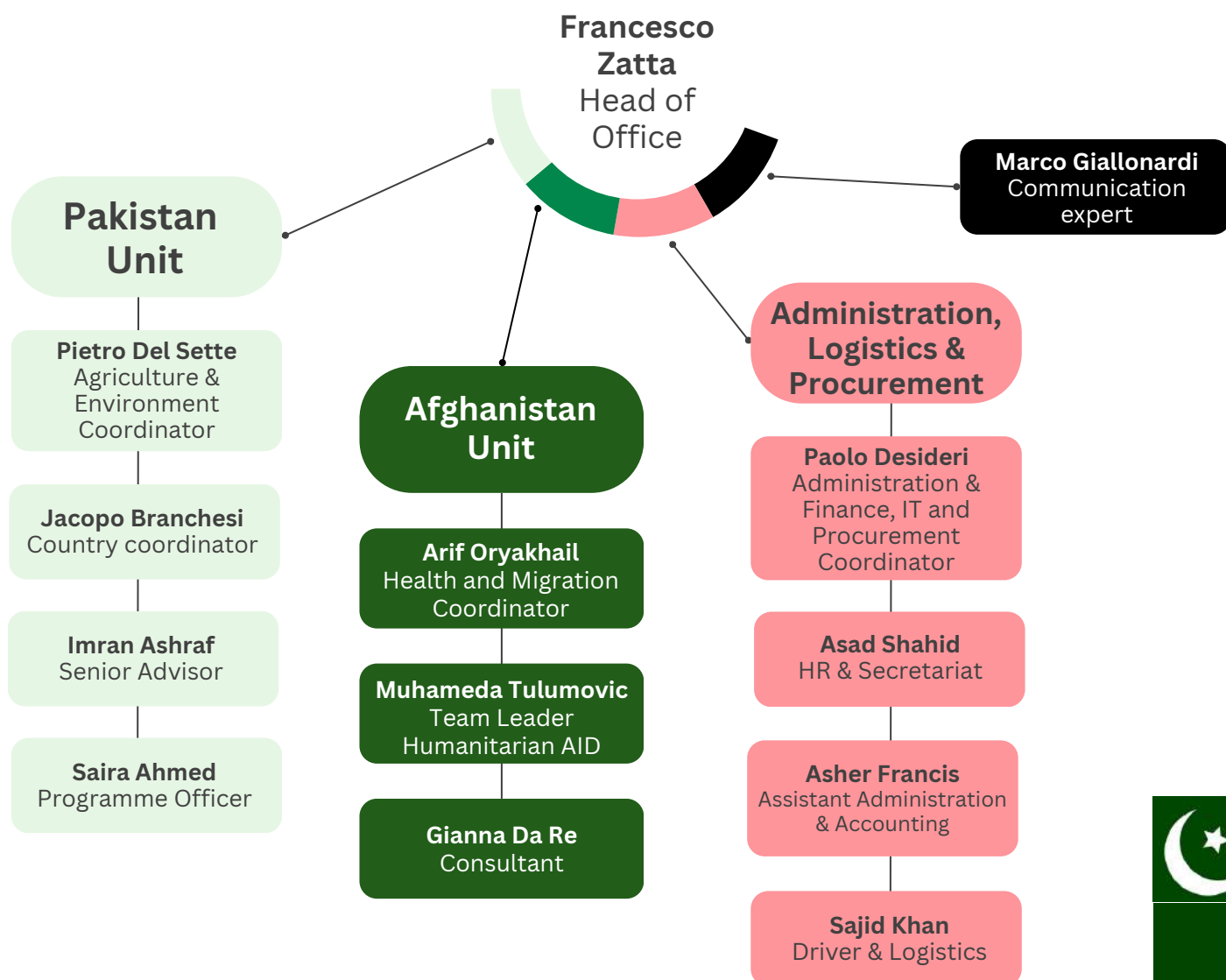


## december

A photo exhibition on Pakistan's  
glaciers celebrates International  
Mountain Day 2023



# Head of Office and Organogram



AICS Islamabad pays a visit to the construction site of the new Italian Embassy, headed by H. E. Andreas Ferrarese November 13, 2023



## Projects in pipeline

### Scaling up Olive-Culture Value Chain and Promoting Climate-Resilient Rural Development in Pakistan



36 months



3 mln EUR



- Farmers and Businessmen
- Public Officials
- Research Institutes
- Local Institutions
- Women, youth, rural areas families
- Companies in the olive business value-chain

### Fostering job creation and climate change adaptation through cultural heritage and responsible tourism in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa



36 months



3 mln EUR



- Young people living in areas affected by floods
- Students and researchers of National College of Arts (NCA)
- Representatives of federal and provincial institutions
- Vocational training students

### Water for Development (W4D): support to mountain sustainable development and adaptation policies



36 months



3 mln EUR



- Environment Protection Agency (EPA) - Gilgit-Baltistan
- Disaster Management Authority (DMA) – GB
- Dept. of Planning, Dept. of Tourism, Dept. of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and Dept. of Forest & Wildlife
- Staff of national parks and protected areas
- 500 members of local communities, 200 private sector representatives, 200 students from Karakorum and Gilgit-Baltistan University

# **Grant projects**

**AIICS Islamabad**



## Support to Girls Right of Education and Safeguarding Cultural Heritage through Education in Pakistan

**Increase primary school enrollment rate for girls** in Bahawalpur and Swat districts through social mobilitation;

**Enhance primary school's quality education services** in marginalized communities through a better learning environment and adopting different learning approaches;

Improve governmental officials' ability to promote **importance of girls education** at provincial and district level;

Involve young students in **cultural heritage conservation activities**;

Create awareness among the youth, communities and local governments on the **importance of cultural heritage**.

**AID 010875/01/2**

**MULTIBILATERAL  
channel**



**implemented by**



**in partnership with**

Ministry of Education and Culture  
Ministry of Information and National Heritage  
Directorate of Archeology and Museums (Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governments)  
Department of Education (Swat and Bahawalpur districts)  
National Rural Support Program (NRSP)  
National Integrated Development Association (NIDA)  
Radio FM channel Power99 Foundation



until 31.12.2023



1.500.000 EUR

## CULTURE component



**Swat  
Mandor  
Peshawar**  
Khyber-  
Pakhtunkhwa



**Jelhum**  
Punjab



**Thatta**  
Sindh



**Chilas**  
Gilgit-Baltistan

### Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

Empowered 107 educators through **immersive training sessions on Pakistan's cultural heritage**;

Facilitated the engagement of 50 students in dynamic educational programs tailored to **foster understanding of cultural legacy**;

Cultivated the talents of 20 young Pakistanis to become **torchbearers in cultural heritage preservation**.

### Punjab

Enlightened 26 educators through **comprehensive training initiatives**, enhancing their knowledge of Pakistani cultural heritage;

Engaged 30 students to actively participate in educational endeavors aimed at **nurturing a deep appreciation for Pakistan's diverse heritage**;

Fostered empowerment by providing specialized training to 10 female students, fostering **inclusion and gender diversity in heritage conservation**.

### Sindh

Equipped 125 educators with enriched knowledge of Pakistani cultural heritage, empowering them to **serve as custodians of nation's rich legacy**;

Engaged 200 students in **immersive educational experiences** designed to instill a profound sense of pride and responsibility towards preserving cultural heritage;

Facilitated transformative workshops for 30 students, focusing on the conservation of archaeological sites to **safeguard history for future generations**.

### Gilgit-Baltistan

Mentored 25 dynamic young Pakistanis, nurturing their passion for tourism and empowering them to **showcase the unparalleled cultural heritage of the region**.

## EDUCATION component



**Bahawalpur**  
Punjab



**Swat**  
Khyber-  
Pakhtunkhwa

6,570 girls involved in the school enrollment program to **increase access to education and reduce gender disparities in education**;

457 teachers have attended **courses on Action Based Learning and Multi-Grade Teaching** focused on innovative teaching methods;

110 educators and 220 mothers/fathers have participated in **social mobilization sessions** to raise awareness about the importance of education, parental involvement, and community support;

300 students attended a **storytelling promotion program** to promote literacy and language skills through storytelling.



"We have always known the archaeological sites of our land but we have never really understood their importance until today. Thanks to the sessions provided by the project, we now know that this is our heritage and that we must preserve it, we have understood how important awareness of what surrounds us matters"

**Tehmina Khushk**  
primary school teacher in Thatta, Sindh

## Promotion of Decent Work Opportunities for the Economic Empowerment of Vulnerable Segments of Society

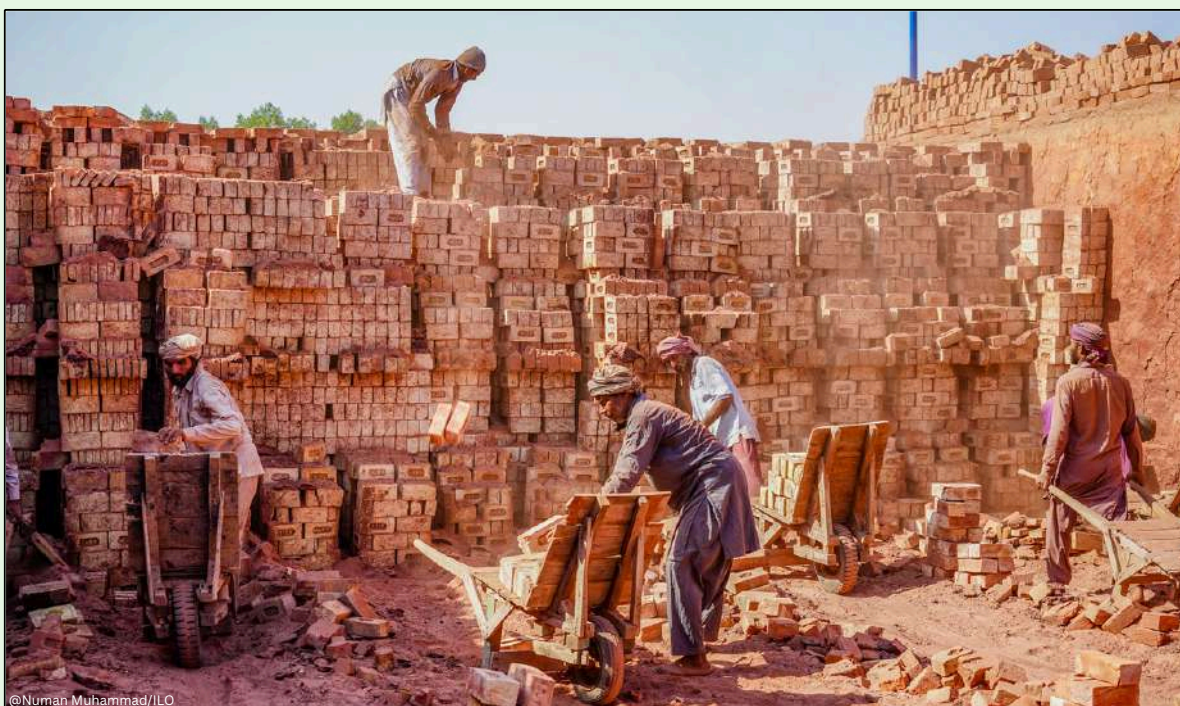
Aiming at supporting **job creation, social protection and promote decent work in Pakistan**, the project comprises of three main components i.e.:

1. Strengthen national capacities to effectively **eliminate exploitative labour practices** (child and bonded labour);
2. **Promote coordinated social protection system** based on social protection floors concept;
3. **Engage Pakistani diaspora in Italy** in the areas of job creation, entrepreneurship, skills development and other areas of decent work in Pakistan.

The project will build upon the previous work done by the ILO and the Italian government to **eliminate child and bonded labour in Pakistan** and support ongoing work on promoting a coordinated social protection system in KP Province for replication in other provinces.

**AID 011196/01/0**

**MULTIBILATERAL  
channel**



©Nurman Muhammad/ILO



implemented by



until 31.12.2023



1.500.000 EUR

in partnership with

Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource  
Development (MOPHRD)  
Punjab Province Government  
Punjab Vocational Training Institute  
ISCOS  
PWF (Pakistan Workers' Federation)  
EFP (Employers' Federation of Pakistan)



beneficiaries

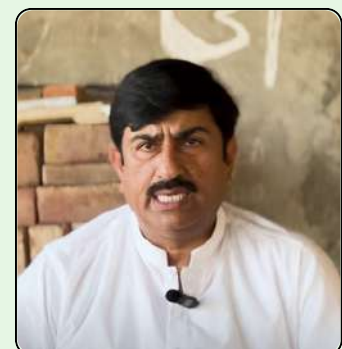


Brick kiln owners' associations of Pakistan,  
brick kiln workers and their families

Vulnerable families selected for poverty  
scorecard of the Benazir Income Support  
Programme (BISP) in KP, Punjab and  
Belucistan

150.000 citizens of Pakistan living in Italy,  
including the Pakistan Workers Federation

*"Pollution is a big problem in this country, which is resulting in a bad image of Pakistan all over the world. To eliminate this, the Zig-zag technology-led brick kiln isn't the only solution. All the factory owners, mill owners, and vehicle owners will have to play their roles. With the new technology, workers are getting less sick and do not receive burns, this technology requires less coal and bakes bricks well. It is better for health, for children and wives and for the farmers living in the near vicinity".*



**Mian Farman Ali**

Brick Kiln Owner, Master Trainer zig-zag technology

# Global Assessment of the State of Nature and Biodiversity Safeguarding Actions in the Northern Areas of Pakistan



This project has 2 main objectives and 8 different achievements:

Global Awareness: **enhance understanding of global biodiversity status** to influence political and economic decision-making;

Local safeguarding: **protect biodiversity and livelihoods in Northern Pakistan**, focusing on areas impacted by infrastructure projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

**AID 011605/01/6**

**MULTIBILATERAL  
channel**



- **Strategic Assessment** (SESA) of road and hydropower energy projects in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB);
- **Ecological Reports** on flora, fauna and ecosystems in the project area;
- **Biodiversity Studies** investigating fauna, flora and ecotourism potential;
- **Policy Support** to update the Wildlife Preservation Act of GB;
- **Capacity Building** over 200 individuals in advanced wildlife monitoring techniques;
- **Climate-Resilient** livelihoods pilot projects for sustainable tourism in Minapin and Ghulkin Valley;
- **Eco-tourism Development** in 8 valleys along Karakoram Highway (KKH) and trainings on the promotion of off-season tourism;
- **Awareness Initiatives** for local youth on environmental sustainability and natural resource conservation.





implemented by



until 30.06.2024



1.000.000 EUR

in partnership with

EV-K2-Cnr

Gilgit-Baltistan Province Government  
Pakistan Meteorological Department  
Karakoram International University (KIU)  
University of Baltistan (UoB)



*"These assessments, especially those related to road and hydropower energy projects, not only contribute to informed decision-making for the fragile ecosystem of Gilgit Baltistan but also set a benchmark for responsible development practices. They will be guiding documents in promoting sustainable development in the region while protecting the natural environment, wise use of natural resources, and supplementing the Government's development agenda. The dedication to generating detailed reports for the Gilgit-Baltistan Government showcases a commitment to the long-term well-being of both the environment and local communities".*

**Shehzad Hassan Shigiri**

Director, Gilgit-Baltistan Environmental Protection Agency

*"The focus on climate-resilient livelihoods of the local communities, such as sustainable tourism pilots and the establishment of a rock-climbing facility, not only conserves the environment but also fosters economic opportunities for local communities. This initiative sets a commendable example for the integration of conservation and tourism for mutual benefit".*

**Iqbal Hussain**

Director Tourism, Gilgit-Baltistan Tourism Department



*"The construction of multi-purpose bridges and biodiversity corridors along the Khunjerab River have significantly enhanced the mobility of both wildlife and tourists. With the completion of two functional bridges/biodiversity corridors and two more underway, these initiatives are poised to transform our region".*

**Mehboob Rabani**

President, Khunjerab Villager Organization (KVO)

## OliveCulture

Holistic and Multi-professional mechanism  
for a Pakistani Olive Oil Value Chain

The overarching objective of this initiative is to **elevate the socio-economic status of rural households and small-scale farmers**, leveraging prior Italian endeavors in the olive oil industry. This includes:

- **Institutional support** to local entities;
- Improvement of abilities, awareness and training of public and private stakeholders in the **olive oil sector**;
- Scientific and **technological upgrades** for production activities;
- **Income-generation** activities;
- Support to **branding operations**, trading and internal/external communications.



*Olive-growing cultivation has been progressively promoted by Pakistani Government, meanwhile the Italian Cooperation was funding a development project focusing on scientific reaserch already in 2006, implemented by IAO - Istituto Agronomico d'Oltremare.*

*Italian Cooperation in Pakistan supported Pakistani government interest in this agricultural sector through important investment of 3.5 million euro in 2010, allocated in the framework of PIDSA - Pakistan Italy Debt Swap Agreement, aiming at supporting local communities and involving public insititutions to expand olive oil value chain.*

**AID 012212/01/0**

**MULTIBILATERAL  
channel**





implemented by



in partnership with

Ministry of National Food Security and  
Research  
Pakistan Oilseed Department



until 30.06.2024



1.500.000 EUR

beneficiaries of  
training courses



*Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) for **208 olive farmers***

*Olive mill processing plant protocols and hygiene safety for **164 cultivators***  
*Table olive processing protocols and hygiene safety for **119 participants***

*Income generating activities along the olive value chain for **150 women and youth***

*Olive GAP with a focus on pruning for **1486 participants***  
*Olive GAP focusing on Nursery Management for **281 farmers***



*"We have learned about the value chain which encompass the entire product creation journey, from manufacturing to retail distribution. We have been given a comprehensive understanding of each stage and how to navigate them"*

**Samra Zaheer**  
training participant



*"One key aspect was their pruning method, which we had never been taught before. I personally believe it's highly beneficial because the technique they taught us not only increases the fruit yield but also makes harvesting much easier. Additionally they emphasized the importance of keeping young plants straight, as it promotes balances growth"*

**Muhammad Akbar**  
farmer in Pothohar,  
Punjab Region



*"In our area there wasn't a dedicated place to seek awareness or find information on how to properly prune or harvest. We needed guidance on different types of olives, those suitable for table use and others for oil extraction. We are being given guidance on the best practices for cultivation"*

**Tahira Akbar**  
farmer in Attock, Punjab Region



## Glaciers and Students

The primary objective of this project is to **strengthen the monitoring and evaluation systems related to glaciers and climate in Pakistan.**

It also seeks to **foster collaboration and exchanges between national and international institutions**, as well as students. Through these partnerships, “*Glaciers and Students*” endeavors to enhance glaciers' monitoring capabilities over the long term. This will be achieved by implementing new approaches and technologies, thereby ensuring the sustainability of monitoring activities in the region.

Through these concerted efforts, the initiative aspires to contribute to **a more robust understanding of glaciers and climate dynamics.**

**AID 012359/01/0**

**MULTIBILATERAL  
channel**



- *Maintain and improve climate-environmental monitoring activities in the North of Pakistan;*
- *Publish a comprehensive inventory on Pakistan's glaciers;*
- *Implement a GIS web system based on SHARE Geonetwork (interactive maps, satellite imagery and related spatial databases);*
- *Draft and provide a training programme for institutions and universities in partnership with Italian academic institutions.*



until 30.09.2024



1.100.000 EUR



executed by



implemented by



in partnership with

Gilgit-Baltistan Regional Government  
Pakistan Meteorological Department  
Karakoram International University (KIU)  
University of Baltistan Skardu (UoBS)  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
GB Disaster Management Authority  
University of Milano  
University of Cagliari

beneficiaries



**494 students** and researchers hailing from KIU and UoBS, with 171 among them representing female students and researchers (43% of the total);

**Comprehensive training to eight staff members and researchers affiliated with EPA-GB**, encompassed a spectrum of critical areas including glacier monitoring techniques, change assessments, GIS/Remote Sensing applications, installation and operation of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS), data retrieval and analysis methodologies, and the formulation of a comprehensive glacier inventory.

Seventy percent of the water flow in the Indus River, which stands as the primary water source in the region, originates directly from glacier melt. This substantial volume of water is directed into the world's largest irrigation scheme, playing a pivotal role in supporting over 90% of Pakistan's national agricultural output.

The project aims to enhancing the understanding of local cryosphere conditions and foster improved water management strategies. By systematically monitoring the consequences of climate change and forecasting future impacts, the project facilitates the assessment of annual contributions to river discharge crucial for sustaining the national agricultural system.





## Radio Education

Promotion of Learning through Radio in Isolated Areas of Pakistan

The project aims at enhancing access to schools, communities, and youth of isolated areas of Pakistan to improved learning opportunities through an **Interactive Radio Instruction (IRI) Approach** comprised of educational content and information on the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Pakistan.

It will focus on **broadcasting educational content for children in the primary education stream** (from grades 1-5); education being the cornerstone, other sectors, such as Culture, Science and Communication & Information have been integrated into the project framework.

**AID 012733/01/0**

**MULTIBILATERAL  
channel**



implemented by



990.000 EUR



starting in 2024

During school closure due to COVID-19, learning loss was significant, especially the engagement of parents and communities has been a challenge. Pakistan's education system was already suffering from structural weaknesses and learning crises, but once the pandemic reached the country, education and culture were among the hardest hit sectors of the society. Unprecedented school closures have resulted in further challenging the efforts to build productive human capital. According to estimates, school closures have affected 55.3 million children in Pakistan aged between 5 and 16. Additionally, 22.8 million children are already out of school, with over 50 per cent being girls.

In efforts to address these challenges and under the auspices of *"Support to Girls' Right to Education and Safeguarding Cultural Heritage through Education in Pakistan"* project, **Interactive Radio Instruction Programme "Radio - My Best Friend" was launched in August 2020.** It included art and culture education to equip students with knowledge and skills across the curriculum (from mathematics and science to heritage education) and, most importantly, to stimulate cognitive development and encourage innovative and creative thinking. This cross-disciplinary approach enables students to make connections and see the relationships between subject areas, leading to creative insights and original ideas.

The *"Radio Education"* project shall benefit precisely from this experience, with enhanced outreach and additional features for taking the programme to the classroom level. The main goal of continuing the radio programme is to encourage children to remain engaged in learning, leading towards returning to school faster and staying in school.



## Sustainable management of natural resources in mountain areas

The project is implemented in five countries (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Albania and Montenegro) with the general objective to **define and establish a *capacity development program* in favor of national institutions** and to carry out vulnerability analyses (climatic and economical) of mountain populations.

**AID 012006/02/4**

**MULTIBILATERAL  
channel**



implemented by



*"Ecosystem Services" refers to activities and first resources provided by nature, goods and services available in a given period of time. According to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment definition, a research project supported by the United Nations, these are "multiple benefits provided by ecosystems to humankind" divided in four categories of ecosystem services, starting with the main ones:*

- *life support (nutrient cycling, soil formation and primary production);*
- *supply (production of food, drinking water, materials or fuel);*
- *regulation (climate and tides, water purification, pollination and pest control)*
- *cultural values (aesthetic, spiritual, educational and recreational).*



until 31.12.2024



940.000 EUR

# **Soft Loans**

**AICS Islamabad**



## Economic Transformation Initiative (ETI)

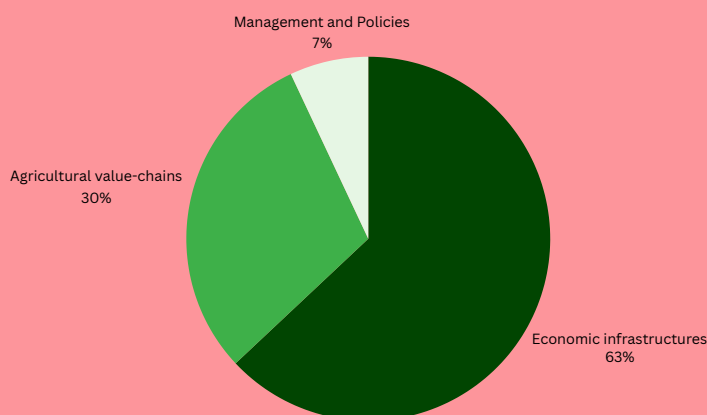
### Italian contribution

The **Economic Transformation Initiative (ETI)** represents a comprehensive seven-year development endeavor undertaken by the Government of Pakistan within the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) region. With a substantial budget totaling \$120 million USD, the initiative receives co-funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Its primary objective is to **address poverty and malnutrition in rural areas while fostering employment opportunities** for over 100,000 rural families through the sustainable advancement of agricultural value chains.

**AID 010710/01/1**

**BILATERAL  
channel**



#### **Component 1**

(economic infrastructures) - **63%**

#### **Component 2**

(support services for the high value-chains development) - **30%**

#### **Component 3**

(management costs and support to sector policies) - **7%**

- Relevant increase in cultivated areas and production, ensuring better connections with the market through strategic **investments in economic infrastructure**, including a 70,000-acre irrigation system, 600 km of roads including bridges;
- structural interventions for the **improvement of health facilities**, including those dedicated to livestock farms;
- support to agricultural production in order to strengthen supplies and **improve the value chain of key supply chains**, including the agro-tourism offer;
- **improve PMUs ability** to carry out activities in additional districts.



48 months  
started in June 2023



20,5 MLN EUR

implemented by



Economic  
Affairs  
Division,  
Government  
of Pakistan

in partnership with



Government  
of  
Gilgit Baltistan



**IFAD**  
INTERNATIONAL  
FUND FOR  
AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT



AICS Islamabad delegation welcomed in Gilgit-Baltistan Province during a field mission to meet the programme's main stakeholders  
June 2023



### Gilgit-Baltistan

districts of Gilgit

Hunza

Ghizer

Nagar

Astore

Diamer

Skardu

Ghanche

Kharmand

Shigar

*"With this successful initiative, each household in the village of Ganche will now have access to more than 2 acres of land. Last year, we successfully planted 15,000 plants and this year we are focusing on developing the land for a variety of cereal crops and fruit plants. This initiative holds significant importance in improving our agricultural economy".*

**Mazhar Hussain**

farmer in Ghanche district, Baltistan



## Command Area of Development Works of Kaitu Weir Irrigation & Power Project of Kurram Tangi Dam Project

The intervention involves the **construction of tertiary irrigation schemes for a command area of total of 16,000 acres of land**, which will be irrigated through the construction of 100 watercourses in North Waziristan, District KP. It also includes agricultural services improvement aiming at orchards creation, fertilizers use and seasonal vaccination for small and big ruminants supporting **more than 70.000 beneficiaries**.

In the inception phase, **KP provincial authorities will conduct 2 evaluation studies** on (1) enhancement and enlargement of arable area in the next 5-10 years and (2) the impact of canalization on water tables level.

**AID 012662/01/0**

**BILATERAL  
channel**



**implemented by**



**in partnership with**

On Farm Water Management (OFWM) General Directory  
Agriculture, Zootechnics and Cooperatives Department,  
Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Regional Government

**Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa**  
North Waziristan district



48 months  
in pipeline



17,62 MLN EUR

*During the past years, different army campaigns were carried out in KP region in order to clean the area from terrorist breeding grounds. Most of the territory is currently under governmental control, including project area, and population had the possibility to go back to their home. This project has also social and economic relevance, supporting rehabilitation for a large number of displaced people.*

## Establishment of Heritage Field Schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Project envisages establishment of **dedicated learning centres by providing necessary technical staff and equipment** in order to cope with the growing volume of work and improve the monitoring and evaluation capabilities of the Directorate of Archeology and Museums.

Due to the introduction of new ideas, there is dire need to have dedicated and well-equipped institutionalised schools of research through **on-ground physical excavations and their recorded documentation to devise and execute quality plans.**

**AID 012786/01/0**

**BILATERAL  
channel**



### implemented by



DoAM - Directorate of  
Archeology and Museums,  
Khyber- Pakhtunkhwa  
Government

### in partnership with

ISMEO - IAMP Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan  
Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione e il Restauro, MIC  
Comando Carabinieri - Tutela Patrimonio Culturale



### Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

districts of Taxila  
Peshawar  
Swat  
Chitral  
Dera Ismail Khan



36 months  
starting in 2024

*Construction and provision of **equipment to laboratories;***

***Vocational training** for local staff on machinery management;*

*Set-up of **laboratories showcasing archeological finds** from  
esxcavation operations, researches, archive and deposit;*

***Trainings for young archeological experts** coming from  
surrounding areas;*

***Certified vocational training** for border and custom police  
officials.*



4,15 MLN EUR



## Professional Capacity Building and Extension in Agriculture

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

The program's primary objective is to **bolster agricultural value chains**, particularly in the olive oil sector, through the rehabilitation of training centers and the establishment of **new institutions dedicated to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**. Special emphasis is placed on enhancing the technical skills of field assistants, enabling them to impart their knowledge for sustainable rural development.



**AID 010982**

**BILATERAL  
channel**



1. Installation of **solar panel systems linked to High-Efficiency Irrigation Schemes (HEIS)** for rainwater/river water collection and bio-rehabilitation to produce drinkable water;
2. Collaboration with private entrepreneurs to **introduce new cultivations to young and female farmers** participating in vocational training sessions;
3. **Capacity building and policy reforms for 2,209 stakeholders** in the olive oil value chain through itinerant seminars across three regions;
4. **Strengthening olive oil quality laboratories** to ensure product certification and enhance national-level analysis capabilities and service provision for farmers;
5. Organizing **field visits to Italy for officials, rural experts, farmers, and decision-makers** in the agriculture sector to facilitate knowledge exchange through training sessions, field visits, and workshops.



implemented by



in partnership with  
Pakistan Oilseed Federal/  
Provincial Agriculture Department



48 months  
in pipeline



20 MLN EUR

*The Ministry of Food Security and Research in Pakistan recognizes the significance of training and short vocational courses, particularly in the most disadvantaged rural areas, for social stabilization and creating a skilled workforce for agricultural companies. This aligns with national policies aimed at curbing migration to urban centers. The ministry prioritizes support for the horticulture sector, as its growth has significant implications for job opportunities and advancements in irrigation techniques.*

*Enhancing fruit and vegetable production is seen as a vital step for small and medium farmers to increase their incomes. However, success in commercial agriculture requires additional knowledge, such as understanding market mechanisms, adopting proper cultivation techniques, and accessing training and investment opportunities. Project activities will address these challenges, particularly focusing on low levels of innovation and productivity, significant losses during production and processing stages, and technical inadequacies.*



**Punjab**



**Balochistan**



**Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa**



## “Citizens Damage Compensation Programme” CDCP II

With the Pakistan’s Citizen’s Damage Compensation Program (CDCP) the Italian contribution aimed at **supporting social and economic recovery for families affected by floods**, in partnership with the Government of Pakistan and World Bank.

It is a **response cash grant program** initially created by the Government of Pakistan to provide the much-needed relief to the flood-affected population, and later continued and expanded to support their early recovery.

Currently the programme is under revision to **repurpose the assistance toward medium and long-term resilience**.

### AID 09651/01/4

BILATERAL  
channel



implemented by



48 months  
repursposing in pipeline



57,75 MLN EUR

in partnership with

National / Provincial  
Disaster Management Authority



Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa



**PIDSA**

**Pakistan-Italy Debt Swap Agreement**

**AICS Islamabad**



## Pakistan Italy Debt Swap Agreement – PIDSA

Following the agreement signed on November 4, 2006 in partnership with Economic Affairs Division (EAD) at the Ministry of Economy, a vast debt swap programme was launched in Pakistan with the aim of **intervening in different sectors, all over the countries and for several disadvantaged communities of beneficiaries.**

**With a total amount of 80 million Euros, 48 development projects have been approved** with different specific budget and duration, supporting priority sectors in Pakistan such as agriculture, health, education, environment, cultural heritage, basic infrastructures, rural development, micro-finance and poverty alleviation.

**AID 008942**

**BILATERAL  
channel**



capture frames from the movie “*The great exchange*” (2023, 41’)



Micro-credit for entrepreneurs and businessmen in Punjab



IT vocational training for men and women



Monitoring Pakistan's mountain glaciers



Olive trees cultivation promoted all over the country

## HEALTH

### Application for Installation of CT Scanner for Sughra Shafi Medical Complex

*Sahara for Life Trust - NGO*

### Pak-Italian Modern Burn Center and Acid Burn Victims Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit

*Smile Again FVG  
Nishtar Medical College and Hospital, Multan*

### Establishment of Tele-Ophthalmology Services at Al-Shifa

*Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital - NGO*

### Up-Grade of Cardiology Services

*Punjab Institute of Cardiology, Lahore*

### Provision of Equipment for Eye-Care Service Hospitals

*The Layton Ramhatulla Benevolent Trust (LRBT) - NGO*

### Wash Package for Southern Districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa through RAHA

*States and Frontier Region (SAFRON)*



Tele-ophtalmology services at Al-Shifa Hospital in Rawalpindi



Support services for health patients in Lahore

### Construction of LRBT Free Secondary Eye Hospital at Odigram (Swat)

*Provincial Disaster Management Authority, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa*

### Improving Maternal Child Health Care Services in Chitral District through Public-Private

*Agha Khan Foundation (AKF)-NGO*

### Benazir Nashonuma Programme for stunting prevention

*Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)*

### Providing Complete Diagnostic, Surgery, & Maintenance Hemodialysis Treatment

*The Kidney Centre (TKCI) - NGO*

### Cure and Prevention of Thalassemia Major in Pakistan

*Cure2Children (C2C) - NGO*

### Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital Cancer Hospital Peshawar

*Shaukat Khannum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre*

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Area Development Project for Frontier Regions

*FATA Secretariat, Peshawar*

### Provision of drinking water to the fishermen's communities along with the coastal line in Balochistan (3 phases)

*Public Health Engineering Department, Provincia del Balochistan*

### Archaeology Community Tourism Field School (ACT I - II)

*ISIAO  
Directorate of Antiquity and Museums*

### Development of Model Decentralized Bio Gas Plants in Selected Districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkwa

*Small Industries Development Board, Provincia del Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*

## EDUCATION

### Sustainable Development through Community Participation in Haveli Azad Kashmir

*Himalayan Rural Support Programme*

### PIDSA Integrated Development Program

*Sami Foundation*

### Village Incubator as Key Factor of Rural Development in Mansehra

*IPALMO - INGO*

### Kharro Chann Health Environment and Watsan Project

*Society for Safe Environment and Welfare of Agrarian in Pakistan (SSEWA-PAK)*

### Drinkable water for fishermen in Belochistan



### Better educational infrastructure for students in Lahore



### Promoting Green energy to mitigate climate change and energy crisis

*UNDP - United Nations Development Programme*

### Enabling access to affordable quality education through centre of excellence for under privileged and low income group

*Trust for Education and Development of Deserving Students (TEDDS)*

### Hafizabad Primary Schools

*M. H. Sufi Foundation*

### Meeting the Millennium Development Goal of Achieving Universal Primary Education through Non-formal Education

*Friends of Literacy and Mass Education (FLAME)*

### AJK - Azad Jammu and Kashmir Rural Quality Education Project

*READ Foundation (NGO)*

### Establishment of Quality Education Institutions in Rural Areas of Sindh

*Fakhre - Imdad Foundation*

## ENVIRONMENT

**Social, Economic and Environmental Development in the Region of Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) - SEED I + II**

*EVK2-CNR  
Karakorum International University*

**Natural Resources Based Poverty Reduction of 2200 Poor Households of Tharparkar Sindh**

*Participatory Village Development Program(PVDP) - NGO*

## AGRICULTURE

**Early Recovery of Agriculture & Livelihood in Malakand**

*Provincial Disaster Management Authority Khyber Pukhtunkhwa*

**Promotion of Olive Cultivation for Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation**

*Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC)*

## BASIC SERVICES

**Livelihood Improvement Project**

*De Las Gul Welfare Program*

**Development of Stone Craft Sector for Poverty Reduction and Youth Empowerment**

*Fondazione CESVI*

**Micro Credit Scheme**

*AKHUWAT NGO*

**Mosaic Training Centre for Women**

*Sohb Educational Welfare Society*

**Information Technology Based Vocational Training and Marketable Skills**

*Society for Education & Technology (SET)*

## CAPACITY BUILDING

**Unità Tecnica di Supporto alla realizzazione del programma**

*Economic Affairs Division  
Cooperazione Italiana*



*“We are pleased to note the successful implementation of the 18 projects out of 48, funded by the PIDSA Programme and directly implemented by Pakistani public entities. Particularly noteworthy are the impactful outcomes attained in the health sector and infrastructures for floods, which have provided crucial support to vulnerable communities”*

**Mr. Abdul Wahab**

Finance Officer (PIDSA), Economic Affairs Division – EAD, Islamabad





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