



**HUMANITARIAN
COALITION** 



THE FLOODS OF 2022

....stories and beyond....

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**THIS HANDBOOK IS DEDICATED TO THE RESILIENCE AND
COURAGE OF THE COMMUNITIES WE WORK WITH.**



The stories featured in this case study booklet are published with the consent of the individuals involved. We respect the privacy and rights of every individual, ensuring ethical practices in the presentation of their stories.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

In the Wake of Floods : A Foreword	vi
About SP0	1
Pakistan Floods: Assessing the Impact	3
Addressing the Crises	4
Our Impact: Making a Difference	5
Finding Dignity Products Amid Floods	6
Rising from the Rubble	12
Every Stitch Tells a Story	16
Safe Water Closer to Home	21
Clean Water is a Privilege Human Right	24
Bright Futures Begin with Clean Water	26
Kizbano's Quest for a Better Future	33
Finding Hope	37
Bringing Convenience to Daily Routines	39
Cultivating Independence	42
My Goat Story	44
Dignified Livelihood	46
A Garden of my Own	48
I Matter!	50
Parwati's First Moment of Self-Recognition	52
Glimpses of Happy Faces Upon Receiving their CNIC	55
Building Tomorrow	58
Glossary	64

IN THE WAKE OF FLOODS : A FOREWORD

In response to the devastating floods that left communities in an exacerbated situation, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), in partnership with Oxfam, initiated transformative efforts. This booklet encapsulates our collective journey in aiding those who, after losing homes and livelihoods, faced health, financial, and protection challenges. Our efforts aimed to rebuild better lives. In this booklet, you'll find stories of people staying strong and overcoming tough times. It reveals how individuals tackled challenges with determination and emerged successful, illustrating the tangible impact of our collective journey. Primarily this effort aims to inspire individuals to lend a helping hand to those in need, offering guidance on making a meaningful impact. It provides insights on supporting others in their recovery journey, assisting them in getting back to a fulfilling life. Join us in turning despair into hope. Together, we can make a difference.

The monsoons of 2022 turned into a disaster displacing millions of people and affecting wide stretches of the communities within Pakistan. Oxfam continuing its legacy of emergency response stepped forward with its partners to support the ones whose lives were impacted by the rains. This booklet is a visual narrative about the human-interest stories of the lives we have touched through our interventions. It was only through the leadership of our partners that Oxfam was able to reach out to the most inaccessible areas and offer its support to the ones who grappled with the aftermath of rains. These may not be stories of change, but they are first-hand accounts of the courage of our people and the impact we made little by little. Their journeys are inspiring, and we hope that we continue to facilitate them through our interventions.

Together we build resilience, and together, we celebrate!



Arifa Mazhar
Chief Executive

Strengthening
Participatory
Organization



Barkat Ali
Team Lead

Humanitarian, Oxfam

ABOUT SPO

SPO is a rights and responsibilities-based organization serving to improve the well-being of the communities and citizens of Pakistan by creating awareness to basic rights and ensuring their access to them. SPO transitioned from a small-scale joint venture of Small Projects Office between Government of Pakistan and Canadian High Commission in 1987. The initiative voluntarily led by Mr. Javed Jabbar, Dr. Tariq J. Banuri, and Ms. Ferida Sher; guided the transformation of a small entity to a leading Pakistani rights and responsibilities-based organization registered in 1994 under the section 42 of the companies Act 2017. The broad programmatic portfolio of the organization includes Social & Economic Development, Climate Change Adaptation, Digital Knowledge Transformation, and Cultural and Tourism Heritage.

SPO operates with dynamic teams across 29 Regional and Field offices, spanning all four provinces of Pakistan, along with a National Center in Islamabad. Out of 166 Districts, we have our footprints in 101 Districts. We are engaging with diverse groups, from grassroots communities to various tiers of Governance, at Local, District, Provincial, and National levels and engaged with 1204 Community Based Organizations (CBOs). SPO is a member of over 20 Global and Regional Networks of leading rights based civil society institutions. SPO's Chief Executive Ms. Arifa Mazhar holds the position of the Co-Chair of the National Humanitarian Network (NHN), Chair of Climate and Humanitarian Action Network for Growth and Engagement (CHANGE), and Chair of the Islamabad chapter of NHN. Additionally, she is a member of the Gender Core Group of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW).

SPO is supported by a volunteer-led 36-member General Body governed by a fourteen-member Board of Directors comprised of thirteen elected members and the Chief Executive.

Since SPO's inception 423 projects out of which 145 humanitarian response projects have been executed with the financial portfolio of PKR 11 billion, impacting more than 20 million individuals' lives.



PAKISTAN FLOODS

ASSESSING THE IMPACT

Between June and August 2022, torrential rains and a combination of riverine, urban, and flash flooding led to an unprecedented disaster in Pakistan. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), around 33 million people—that is, one in seven—have been affected by the floods, including nearly 8 million displaced. The floods have taken the lives of more than 1,700 people, one-third of which were children. Rain-induced floods, accelerated glacial melt, and resulting landslides devastated millions of homes and key infrastructure, submerging entire villages and destroying livelihoods. Preliminary estimates suggest that, as a direct consequence of the floods, the national poverty rate will increase by 3.7 to 4.0 percentage points, pushing between 8.4 and 9.1 million people into poverty. As of October 11, 94 districts were declared as “*calamity hit*,” accounting for more than half of all districts in the country. The majority were in the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Out of the 25 poorest districts in the country, 19 were calamity-affected.

For complete report on Pakistan Floods 2022 – Post Disaster Needs Assessment, published by the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Government of Pakistan, please visit <https://www.pc.gov.pk/uploads/downloads/PDNA-2022.pdf>



ADDRESSING THE CRISES

The Government of Pakistan declared a National Emergency on August 25, considering it as the worst flood in Pakistan's history. The calamity prompted urgent responses and relief efforts. In response to the devastating floods that occurred in 2022, a comprehensive partner-led flood response was initiated by Oxfam. Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), in partnership with Oxfam, addressed the needs of the affected communities in the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan, Pakistan. This project was funded by Oxfam, and all the implementation work on the field was carried out by SPO in the districts of Sanghar & Mirpurkhas in Sindh, as well as Jaffarabad & Sohbatpur in Balochistan. The project provided essential initiatives to alleviate the hardships faced by the affected communities.



OUR IMPACT: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

During the emergency phase we reached out to 26,617 households, and offered vital aid to those in need. We allocated Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) of 59.65 million PKR, benefitting 2,386 individuals for immediate necessities. Remarkably, many utilized this support to start small businesses.

In addition to MPCA, we provided essential Hygiene, Dignity, Winterization, and Kitchen Gardening Kits to families. Recognizing the importance of basic amenities, we constructed 945 household latrines and 342 bathing spaces, directly benefiting 13,255 and 12,187 individuals, respectively. These facilities are fundamental to ensuring a dignified and healthy standard of living.

Our commitment to improving hygiene extended to schools, where we installed WASH facilities, including latrines. In total, 26 latrines were installed, catering to 3,989 students across various affected districts.

Access to clean water is a cornerstone of our efforts; therefore, we constructed lead and direct bore handpumps, reaching a number of 7,800 and 6,563 individuals respectively, ensuring reliable access to clean water sources. Furthermore, we established laundry pads and installed 370 handwashing stations, benefiting 8,565 individuals, while 700 Nadi biofilters were provided to improve drinking water quality, benefiting 7,953 individuals, potentially reducing waterborne diseases.

We also prioritized support for vulnerable women, providing 360 solar kits to female-headed households, providing them with sustainable energy solutions.

Furthermore, we installed 18 filtration plants, which provided clean drinking water to 2,220 households, and benefitted 15,350 individuals.

Our coordinated efforts have significantly improved the living conditions, health, hygiene, and livelihood opportunities for the flood-affected individuals, households, and families, reinforcing our commitment to making a long-lasting impact.



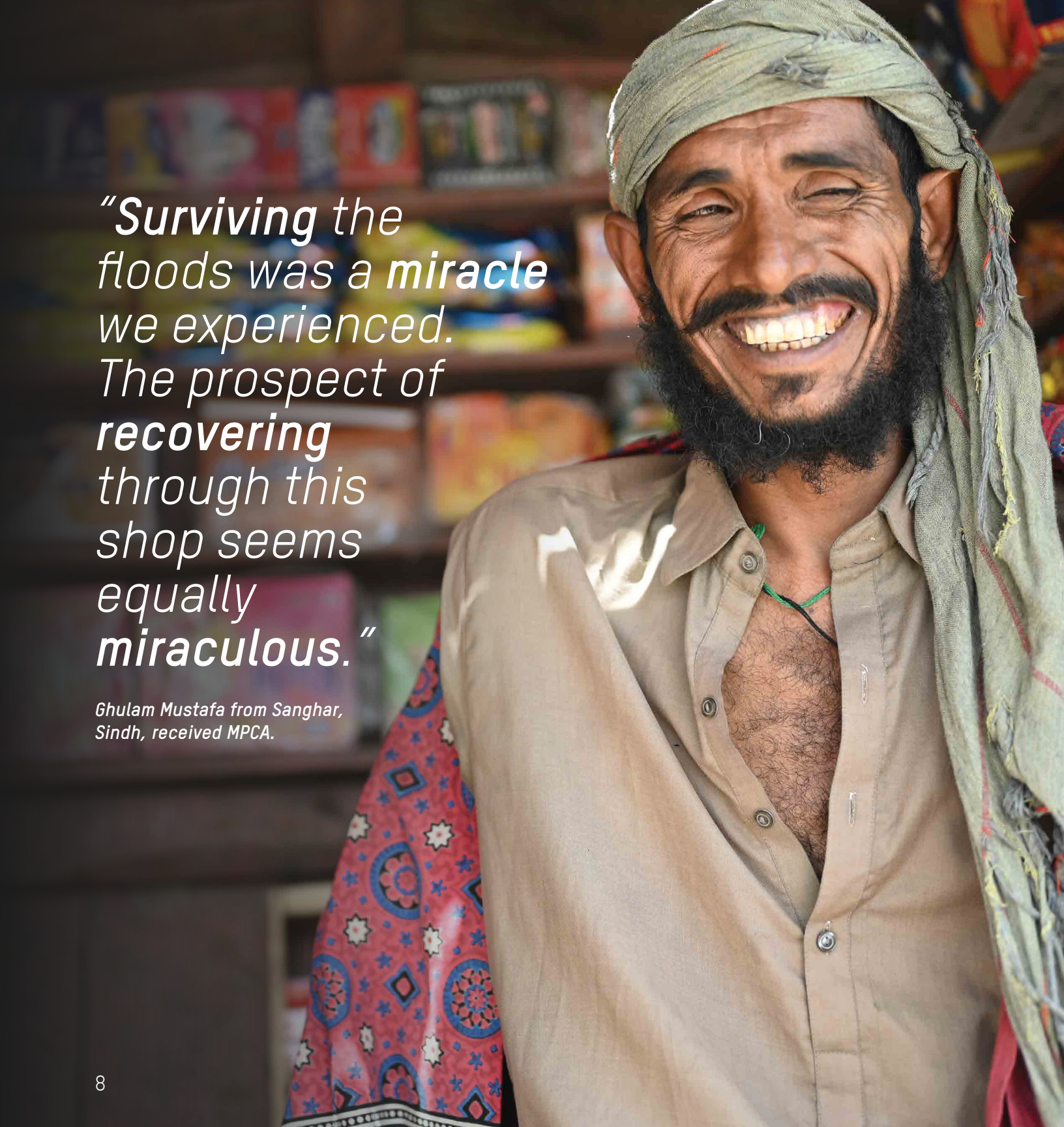
FINDING DIGNITY PRODUCTS AMID FLOODS...

The flood waters showed no mercy in Momal's village. The community was displaced for over two months before they came back to their damaged homes. The floods of 2022 not only damaged the basic infrastructure, but also greatly affected the access to basic needs like food and hygiene. Women and girls in different communities faced challenges accessing basic hygiene products. *"We had no access to bathrooms until we moved to an area where relief efforts were being done,"* says Momal. Oxfam in Pakistan and Strengthening Participatory Organization, recognizing the immediate needs of the community, distributed dignity kits. *"Many women of this area didn't even know how to use these products, we had to conduct sessions with women and girls to demonstrate them how to use them,"* says Rozina, Protection Officer for SP0.

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a woman wearing a green sari with a gold border. She is holding a white envelope with a purple label. The background is dark and out of focus.

*"I am getting married in a few weeks. I have kept **some products** of my **dignity kit** as my **wedding preparations**."*

Momal from Sanghar, Sindh, received the dignity kit.



*“Surviving the
floods was a **miracle**
we experienced.
The prospect of
recovering
through this
shop seems
equally
miraculous.”*

*Ghulam Mustafa from Sanghar,
Sindh, received MPCA.*



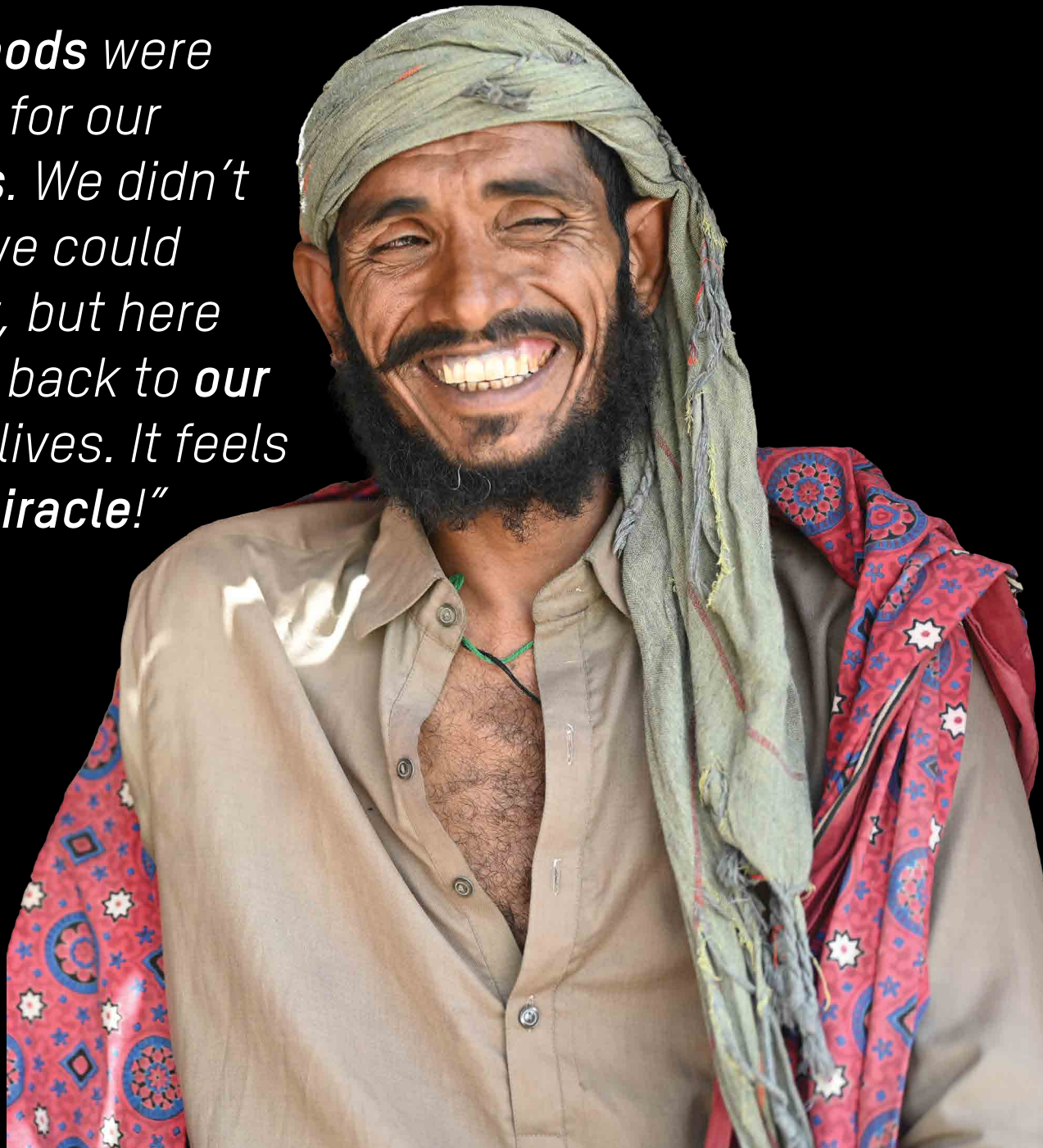
Ghulam Mustafa, from Sanghar, Sindh, set up a small roadside shop after the flood of 2022. Mustafa lost one of his arms in an accident a few years ago. His village was damaged by the floods, and they lived on the outskirts for over a month. With a Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance of PKR 25,000, he started this shop. He now makes a profit of PKR 1000 every day. ***"If the shop keeps going well, I can send my kids to school,"*** says Mustafa. He sees getting back to his routine as a miracle after the floods.

"I didn't have this shop before, but I always wanted something of my own. When I got the cash assistance, I set up this shop right away. If things go well, I'll start another," says Mustafa, the young father.

"If this shop keeps going like this, I will be able to send my kids to school."

"Many people invested this money in business because they need to plan for such disasters," says Mustafa. We're all careful with our earnings. Last year was tough for all of us. None of us knew if we'd make it. *"Life's uncertainty is the biggest uncertainty,"* he adds sitting in his shop on the roadside in Sanghar, Sindh.

*"The **floods** were **terrible** for our **villages**. We didn't think, we could recover, but here we are, back to **our normal** lives. It feels like a **miracle!**"*



***"Everything counts!
Some say the **money**
isn't enough but
I think it's enough
for us to **start again**
in our **simple way**."***

*Rekha from village Muhammad Ramzan
Khaskheli, Mirpurkhas, received
cash assistance.*





**RISING FROM
THE RUBBLE...**



Laxmi from Sanghar, Sindh, received MPCA

Laxmi, based in Sanghar, Sindh, lives with her husband and in-laws. The floods hit their village, displacing the family. Laxmi and her husband, Hero, found it difficult to fulfil the increasing financial responsibilities during the times of disaster. The family received PKR 25,000. ***"My husband and I decided to utilize this amount for our tyre shop. If we had spent the entire sum on ourselves, it would have been difficult to sustain, but Hero's shop is doing well and there is no difficulty now,"*** says Laxmi. ***"My son decided to open a small roadside shop. It earns him some profit, and thus, his family and ours are doing well,"*** adds the mother-in-law. This Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance is a flexible modality of cash disbursements that empowers the community to utilize it as per their needs. Unlike conditional grants, they offer full freedom of utility. This cash has empowered many families after the floods to start something of their own.

"My husband and I decided to **utilize this amount** for our **tyre shop**. If we had spent the entire sum on ourselves, it would have been **difficult to sustain**, but **Hero's shop** is **doing well**, and there is **no difficulty now**."



*"I fix **motorbikes** every day. The floods were **challenging times**. We witnessed villages and communities drowning into rubble. The after-flood recovery **seemed impossible**, but then we received this **little amount**, enough for me to start something of **my own**. I can easily take care of **my children and parents**."*

Hero has refurbished a small tyre shop from the MPCA his family got.

"I've turned my weakness into strength, harnessing my best talents, refusing to let my disability hold me back."



Jodhaa Ram from Sanghar, Sindh, received MPCA

A close-up, profile view of a woman with a weathered face, wearing a vibrant red headscarf with a fringed edge. She is looking off to the side with a contemplative expression. The background is softly blurred, showing a sewing machine and other items, suggesting a workshop or home environment. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the textures of her skin and the fabric of her headscarf.

**EVERY
STITCH
TELLS A
STORY...**

*“When I was **young**, I used to **sew** for myself
then I started **sewing** for my children and
today I **sew to live**.”*



Kaleen from Sanghar, Sindh received MPCA

A photograph of two women in traditional headscarves. The woman on the left wears a purple headscarf with a gold and red beaded border. The woman on the right wears a red headscarf with a red beaded border and a pink patterned top. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is blurred, showing other people in a public setting.

*"I used the **money** I received to repair my **sewing machine**. I had to be strong for my **children** and face the disaster **courageously** to give them a better life."*



Kaleen, 35, from Sanghar, got her sewing machine repaired with the money she had received as a Multipurpose Cash Grant. ***"I had to anchor my children towards a better life after the disaster, so I had no option but to show up courageously,"*** says Kaleen. When the 2022 floods hit her village, she lost one of the walls of her home. Kaleen is a widow and manages her home by herself. The 2022 floods in Pakistan were a climate-induced disaster. These climate disasters have left many communities vulnerable. Kaleen believes that she had to utilize the grant very wisely so she got her sewing machine fixed. ***"I sew clothes for people, and it earns me enough to manage the basic needs of my children,"*** says Kaleen.

"I had to anchor my children towards a better life after the disaster, so I had no option but to show up courageously," says Kaleen.





**SAFE WATER
CLOSER TO HOME**

Samjho, 28, from Sanghar, Sindh and many in her village had to travel miles for fetching water. Strengthening Participatory Organization and Oxfam have installed hand pumps as part of early recovery efforts. We had a handpump near our home a very long time ago, and the water was not drinkable but this new handpump that has been installed is now safe for drinking,” says Samjho. *“If you travel in these villages, you will not find many handpumps; thus, people have difficulty accessing drinking water. To travel on foot to get water in this hot weather is difficult, but we all do it for our families,”* says Samjho. The 2022 monsoon rains in Pakistan led to infrastructure damage. The early recovery interventions have been designed to facilitate affected communities. Many households are using these handpumps accessible to their living areas. Samjho is part of a religious minority group in her village, and the community feels a sense of inclusion with this dedicated handpump allocated for their village. When the floods entered their village in Sindh, they had to relocate. *“This handpump gives us drinkable water, and I no longer have to worry that my child will fall sick from drinking this water,”* concludes Samjho.

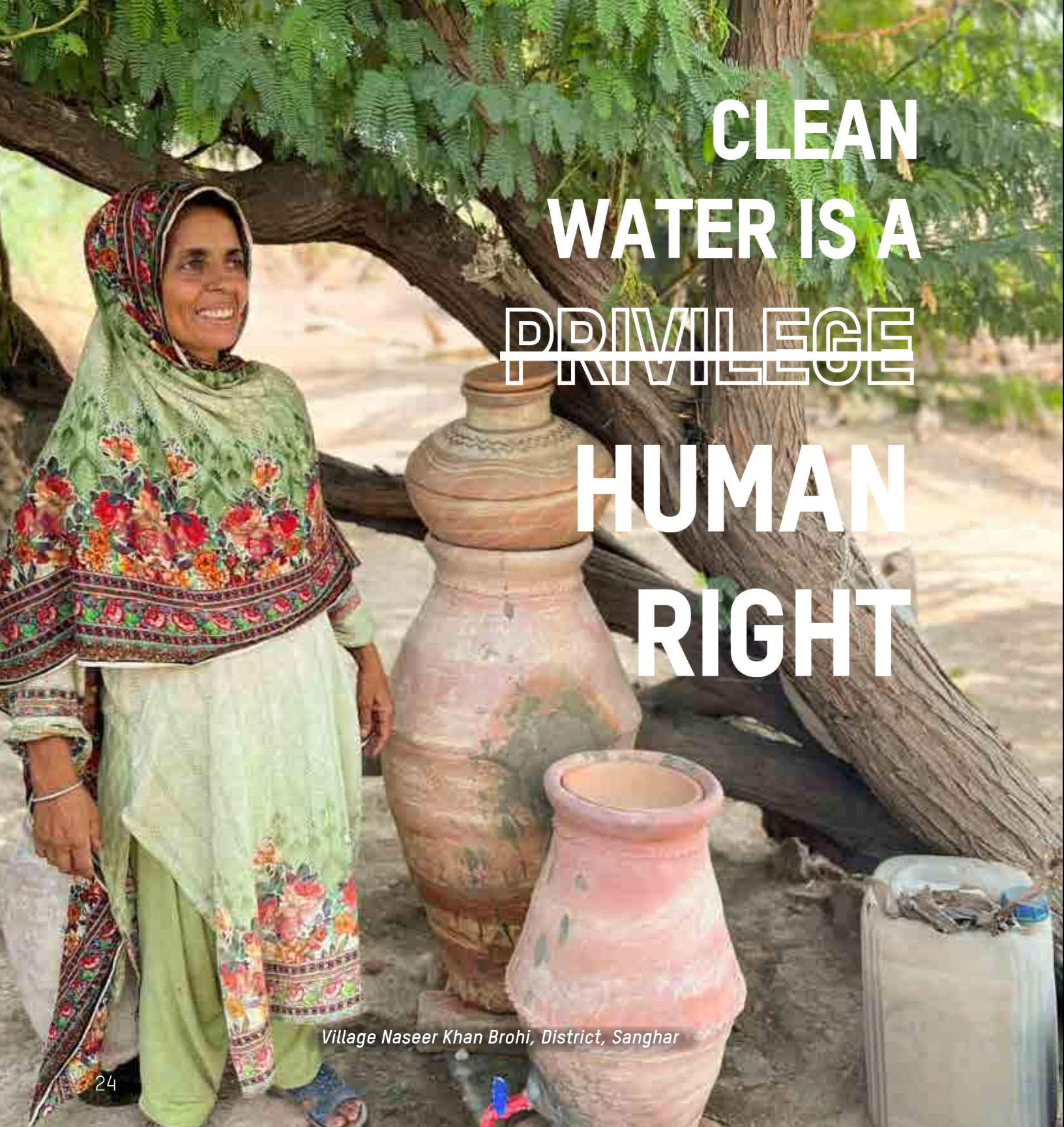
“This handpump gives us drinkable water and I no longer have to worry that my child will fall sick of drinking this water.”





Samjho from Sanghar, Sindh, benefitted from a hand pump for safe drinking water

*“If you travel in these villages, you won’t find many **handpumps**; thus, people have difficulty accessing drinking water. To travel on foot to get water in this **hot weather** is difficult but we all do it for **our families**,” concludes Samjho.*

A smiling woman wearing a green and floral headscarf and a matching green dress with floral patterns stands next to two large, stacked clay water pots. She is positioned under the shade of a large tree with green foliage. The background shows a dry, sandy area. The text "CLEAN WATER IS A PRIVILEGE HUMAN RIGHT" is overlaid on the right side of the image in white, bold, sans-serif font. The word "PRIVILEGE" is underlined.

CLEAN WATER IS A PRIVILEGE HUMAN RIGHT

Village Naseer Khan Brohi, District, Sanghar



Village Sardar Khan Khoso, UC Jhudair, Jaffarabad, Balochistan

Portable Bio-Sand filters, also known as Bio-Nadi filters utilize the natural properties of sand to purify water for communities, facing challenges with safe water access. These filters make it easy for people to get clean water, helping to reduce common diseases caused by contaminated water.

Floodwaters brought many diseases, particularly affecting children, and finding clean water was a desperate struggle. People had to travel long distances to get clean water. The Bio-Nadi filter emerged as a cost-effective and reliable solution to this problem. It's easy cleaning and maintenance make it even more successful, providing sustainable access to clean water for flood-affected communities.

Through research-driven collaborative efforts, SPO and Oxfam identified Bio-Nadi filters as a practical and accessible solution to fulfilling the basic human right to safe drinking water. This initiative has greatly improved the health and well-being of the community.



**BRIGHT
FUTURES
BEGIN
WITH
CLEAN
WATER**

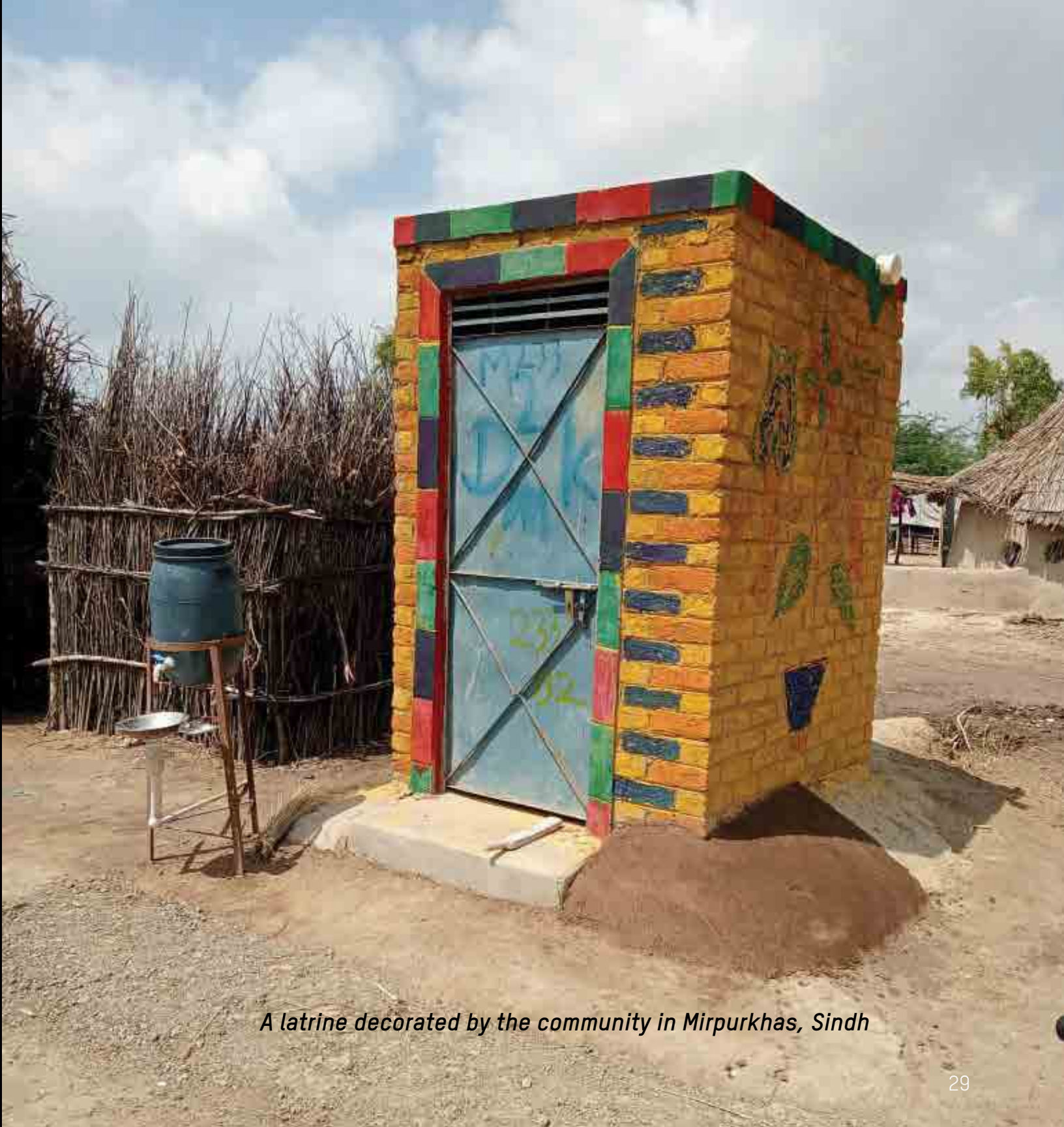
A young girl wearing a dark brown headscarf with yellow floral patterns and a dark blue long-sleeved shirt is drinking from a clear glass. She is positioned on the left side of the frame. To her right are two large, reddish-brown ceramic water filters. A red and blue plastic tap is visible on the bottom filter. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the filters and some greenery.

**"WE LOVE OUR
NEW WATER
FILTER!
IT'S LIKE
MAGIC, CLEAN
WATER COMES
OUT! NOW, WE
DON'T HAVE TO
TRAVEL LONG
DISTANCES TO
FETCH WATER,
AND WE DON'T
GET SICK
ANYMORE."**

Village Nabi Baksh Khoso, UC Jhudair, Jaffarabad, Balochistan



Village Nabi Baksh Khoso, UC Jhudair, Jaffarabad, Balochistan



A latrine decorated by the community in Mirpurkhas, Sindh



Handwashing Station Mirpurkhas, Sindh

*"The **addition** of a ramp **connected** to the **latrine** was a thoughtful **gesture**. Now, I can use my **wheelchair**, whereas before, I had to push myself on the floor."*

Ramzan from Mirpurkhas, Sindh benefitted from an accessible latrine



"I lost my leg to an accident, and since then, it has been challenging to make ends meet," says Ramzan, who is the sole breadwinner of his family. Ramzan, based in Mirpurkhas, Sindh, recounts the devastation caused by the floods, making it even more difficult to sustain his family through the shop he owns. The monsoon flood damaged their village, adding to their struggles.

Ramzan, who previously, had no difficulty with mobility, now faces significant challenges due to his limited accessibility. SPO, as part of its early recovery interventions, constructed a latrine, and a ramp for him to easily take in his wheelchair. ***"We had no latrine facility before the floods, thankfully SPO has constructed one, complete with a ramp for accessibility. I no longer have to push myself on the floor to reach there,"*** says Ramzan.

**KIZBANO'S
QUEST FOR A
BETTER FUTURE**

A woman wearing a vibrant purple sari is seated on a woven mat. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth, and her hands are clasped near her mouth. She is wearing several bangles on her right wrist and a ring on her finger. The background features a wall with peeling pink paint and a dark wooden structure.

*"It is **frightening**
to go out in the
open with the **dogs**
howling and no
pardah at all."*

*Kizbano from Mirpurkhas, Sindh has been using the latrine installed
in their village as part of recovery phase intervention*



We didn't have any latrines here, and after the sunset, I wouldn't allow my daughter go out, narrates Kizbano from Mirpurkhas, Sindh. Kizbano's family, along with the rest of the community, had been sharing a pit toilet for a long time. Unfortunately, due to lack of resources, the community couldn't afford a proper toilet, before the flood.

The flood water of 2022, destroyed those pit toilets, compelling people to go out in the open fields. ***"It is frightening to go out in the open with the dogs howling and no pardah (privacy) at all,"*** shares Kizbano. When the floods hit Kizbano's village, the families were displaced for days. Many women of the community at that time had no access to washroom facilities, resulting in various health issues, particularly for women and girls. With the floods many people didn't have access to any medical care, leading to an increasing number of diseases in her community. ***"It is unsafe to go that far, and we have to make adjustments but Oxfam & SPO have built us these latrines, which are not only accessible but also safe,"*** says the fifty-years-old Kizbano.

Kizbano believes that latrine facility is essential and must be made mandatory for villages because their absence causes multiple problems from health to safety. ***"My age has passed, but at least, I no longer have to worry about my daughter and perhaps many other mothers of my village think the same,"*** says Kizbano. As part of the early recovery interventions, Oxfam with its local partners is constructing facilities in the flood-hit areas of Sindh and Balochistan. The latrine in Kizbano's village was constructed by the Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO). Despite her muscular deformities and difficulty in walking, however, the new latrine in place has greatly improved Kizbano's accessibility, allowing her to avoid walking too far from her home.

"We didn't have any latrines here and after the sunset I wouldn't allow my daughter go out."





FINDING HOPE

"Challenges came, but I found strength. Hope found its way back into my life."

*Raam Bai, Mubeen Mehar,
Mirpurkhas, Sindh*



Life hasn't been easy for Raam Bai. Widowed 10 years ago, the courageous 60-year-old from Mubeen Mahar village, tirelessly raised her six children through unskilled labour. Then came the floods, destroying her home and leaving her with a throat infection. With no bathroom nearby, going outside has been very tough for her, especially after the sunset.

With the provision of a bathroom close to her home and some cash assistance, Raam Bai's, life has improved. Now, she can easily use latrine facility, and the cash support helped her get treatment for her throat infection. With a brighter outlook, she's filled with gratitude for this help.

A woman wearing a blue sari with pink and green patterns is holding a large metal pot. She is standing outdoors in a rural setting with trees and a pink net in the background. The text "BRINGING CONVENIENCE TO DAILY ROUTINES" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

BRINGING CONVENIENCE TO DAILY ROUTINES



The implementation of the Laundry Pad emerged as a valuable resource, providing flexibility for people to wash clothes at their convenience and closer to home, thereby mitigating the need to travel long distances and reducing feelings of insecurity. These laundry pads not only offered a practical solution but also contributed to the peace of mind of female users, enabling them to focus on childcare responsibilities without worrying about their children wandering off during the laundry process.

Notably, when seeking feedback, the community suggested an additional enhancement; the installation of handpumps alongside the laundry pads. This recommendation aimed to further improve convenience by ensuring a readily available water supply for washing. The anticipated outcome is that the combination of laundry pads and water supply through handpumps will create a more user-friendly, accessible, and supportive environment for the community, effectively addressing their essential needs.



Soomri, from Mubeen Mehar, Mirpurkhas, Sindh, benefitted from a laundry pad

Soomri travels great distances every day for washing clothes and fetching water. This has been her routine for years. She believes that accessibility to water at reasonable distance can leave her with more time for herself. SPO has installed laundry pads in her village. ***“Having a laundry space near my home leaves me with time to rest a bit,”*** says Soomri.

Soomri also got a cash assistance of 25,000 rupees and a Nadi filter. This cash assistance enabled her to invest in two small goats, foreseeing them as a future source of income. ***“Imagining rebuilding a life after the floods seemed very challenging, but they have provided us with some basic infrastructure, like that of the laundry space and cash assistance which supports each one of us in the village,”*** concludes Soomri.



CULTIVATING INDEPENDENCE

"I plan to sell the surplus vegetables so we can also have some earnings from our kitchen garden," says Paroo.

Paroo, a resident of Mirpurkhas, Sindh, faced post-flood challenges, including loss of crops. *"Since farming was all, I knew, so after the flood, I felt lost. There was just no way for me to earn anything,"* she recounts.

In response to the aftermath of the floods, Paroo received a Kitchen Gardening Kit. She utilized a small piece of land in front of her home. *"I plan to sell the surplus vegetables so we can also have some earnings from our kitchen garden,"* says Paroo.

As part of the broader recovery efforts, SPO distributed kitchen gardening kits to families like Paroo's, offering a sustainable response to the crop damage caused by the floods. Musarrat, a Food and Economic Security Specialist at SPO, explains, *"The provision of kitchen gardening seeds not only facilitates them in having accessible and nutritious food options, but also allows many to sell their home-grown vegetables, as well."*

Paroo's story reflects the tangible impact of such interventions, allowing individuals to address immediate challenges and work towards sustainable livelihood and food security. Practical tools and knowledge play a crucial role in helping communities rebuild and establish self-sufficiency.



Paroo from Mirpurkhas, Sindh, benefitted from the Kitchen Gardening Kit

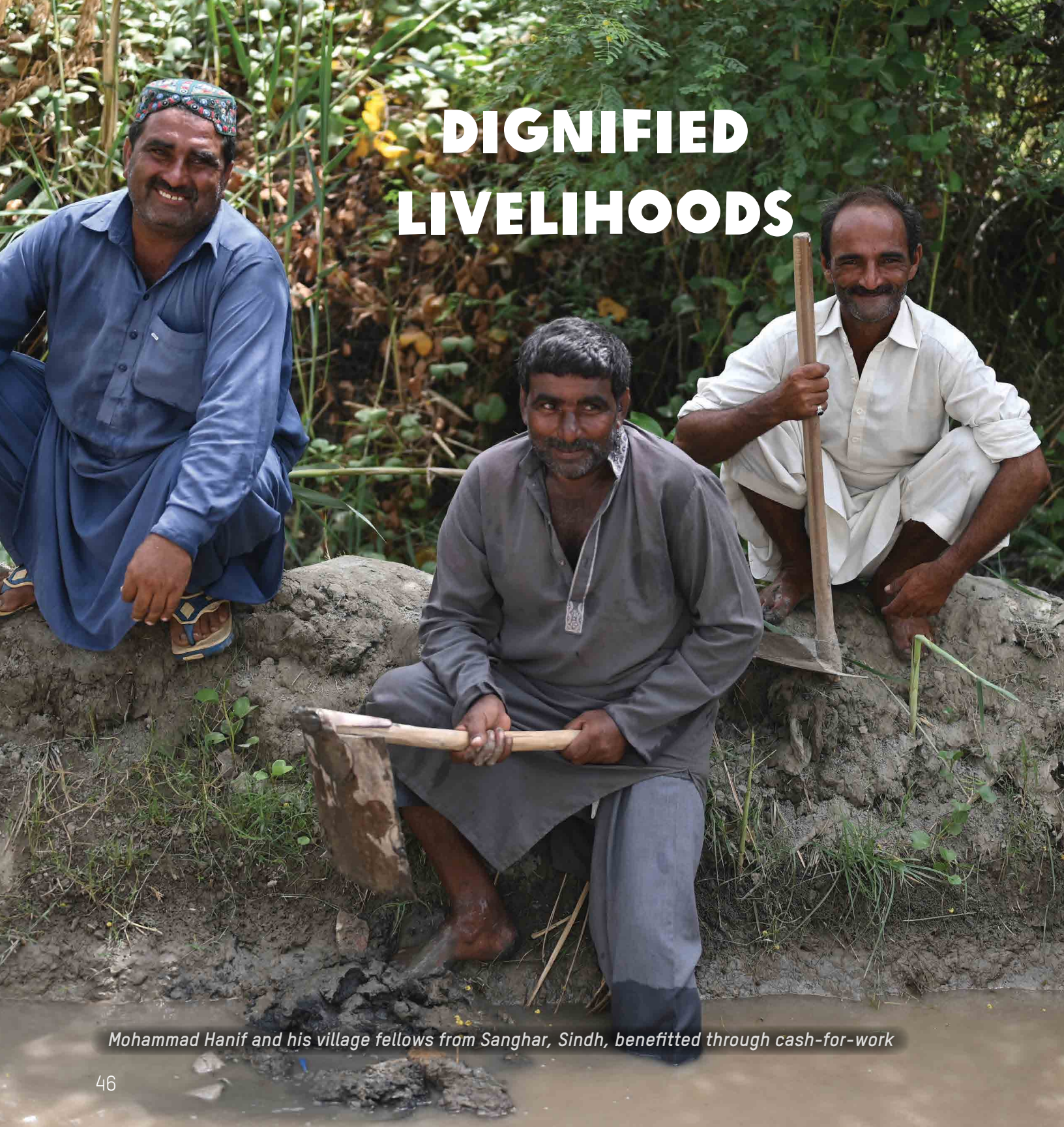


MY GOAT STORY



*“Benefitting from
Livestock has been a
lifesaver for our family!
Now we have food on
the table and even some
extra income.”*

Mahrang from Sanghar, Sindh, benefitted from livestock

A photograph of three men sitting on a dirt mound in a rural setting. The man on the left is wearing a blue kurta and a patterned cap. The man in the center is wearing a grey kurta and is holding a wooden tool. The man on the right is wearing a white kurta and is holding a wooden tool. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is filled with green foliage.

DIGNIFIED LIVELIHOODS

Mohammad Hanif and his village fellows from Sanghar, Sindh, benefitted through cash-for-work

The monsoon's flood have caused extensive damage to infrastructure and Mohammad Hanif's village in Sanghar is no exception. The villagers have moved back and settling in with their lives in post-disaster scenario. However, the village has been surrounded by a water pathway and floods led to damage to that pathway.

The damage did not allow the water to move freely thus, creating pockets of stagnant water. Mohammad Hanif and his fellow villagers were enrolled in a cash for work initiative. The villagers cleared the pathway as a cash-for-work initiative and were paid for their labour. The cash-for-work initiative promotes dignified earnings while facilitating the community.





A GARDEN OF MY OWN

Muharram Ali from Sanghar, Sindh, received a Kitchen Gardening kit

Muharram Ali, a primary school teacher, is an active member of the village committee and has discussed the problems and challenges faced by the villagers. He has been vital in communicating with them. He received a Kitchen Gardening kit, worth 15,000-20,000 rupees. *"We had fertile land but never had the resources to formally cultivate it, so we did what little we could,"* says the teacher.

Kitchen Gardening has been a vital recovery initiative that has supported communities in growing vegetables. *"They have given us good quality seed. This seed is properly packed, and we have stored them in clean and safe spaces to prevent any dampening or diseases of seedlings,"* says Muharram.

"These seeds are more than enough for home consumption, and we can even sell some, if needed," says Muharram Ali.

*"We had
fertile land
but never had
the resources
to formally
cultivate it,
so we did
what little
we could."*





I MATTER!

Mehra Mingwar, member of the Protection Committee, Sanghar, Sindh

Mehra Mingwar, based in a remote village of Sanghar, Sindh, is an active member of her community. She is also a member of the Protection Committee formed within her village. These Protection Committees have been established at the village level to empower women and girls, ensuring their protection and safety. ***“They have been sensitizing us about four fundamental areas like registrations, access to education, understanding what constitutes violence, and when and where to report,”*** says Mehra.

“Women are generally shy and timid, so when a woman like me, from within the same community, represents us at the platforms like the committee, which includes men, most issues are heard and discussed,” says Mehra. Initiating healthy discourses within the community, considering their social and cultural context, is an achievement that subtly impacts the larger ecosystem of the community in a positive manner.

These Protection Committees are small groups at the village level, where women actively participate to solve problems and generate discussions on general well-being, playing a vital role within this framework. ***“We have also been collecting data within our village on identity cards and birth registrations,”*** Mehra adds.

SPO has signed an MoU with NADRA to facilitate the process of new identity card registrations. ***“We didn’t realize the importance of ID cards, but SPO is supporting us with the registration,”*** Mehra concludes.

“Women are generally shy, so when a woman like me, from within the same community, represents us at the platforms like the committee, which includes men, most issues are heard and discussed,” says Mehra.





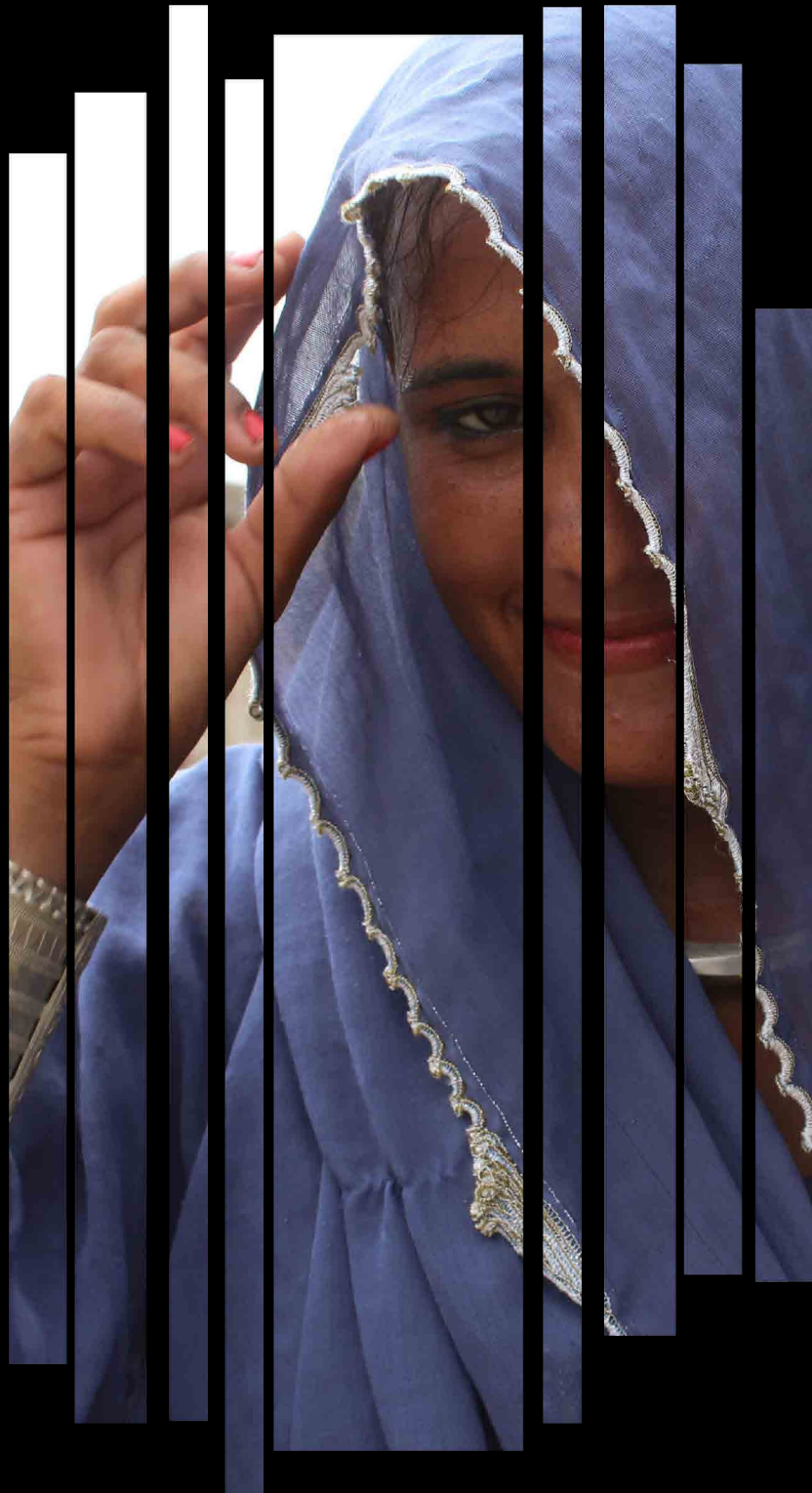
PARWATI'S FIRST MOMENT OF SELF-RECOGNITION

Parwati, UC Dengan Bhurgri, Mubeen Mehar, Mirpurkhas, Sindh

NATIONAL IDENTITY IS EVERYONE'S FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

Parwati Kolhi from the village Mobeen Mehar, Mirpurkhas District, recently got married and shares her story. Uneducated and unfamiliar with the importance of a CNIC card, her perspective changed when the SPO team entered her village. With their guidance, she obtained a CNIC card, becoming a key to unlocking various opportunities.

"I recently got married in Mubeen Mahar. I didn't know much, and I never went to school. But things changed when the SPO Team helped me get a CNIC card. Now, I can get government help, register important papers, and understand my rights. I appreciate what SPO and OXFAM did for me," says Parwati, reflecting on her newfound empowerment.



SPO, as part of the protection component, liaised with NADRA to facilitate the process for communities to register their women and girls as part of the national registration database. The registration will make these communities part of the system. ***"I will soon receive my identity card. It is an integral document which can facilitate or ease many processes, as simple as registering myself for an exam. I think having an Identity Card brings a different sense of confidence in me,"*** says Shahnaz.

Shahnaz and many of her peers will be getting their identity cards. ***"It is a very minute piece of documentation, yet it integral. They have told us that having an identity card is important. I can access many of the facilities with a lot more ease,"*** says Shahnaz.

"I am not sure what difference will it bring to my life, but they say it is integral to have an identity card. It will even facilitate us to access essential services."

"I will soon receive my identity card. It is an integral document which can facilitate or ease many processes, as simple as registering myself for an exam. I think having an Identity Card brings a different sense of confidence in me," says Shahnaz.

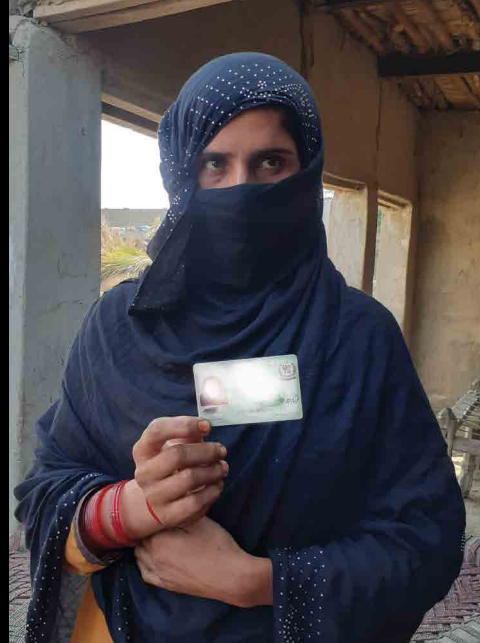


GLIMPSES OF **HAPPY FACES** UPON RECEIVING THEIR CNIC



CAPTURING JOY

Sanghar, Sindh



Sanghar, Sindh



Devi from village Yousif Rajput, UC Sadhano, Sanghar, Sindh

BUILDING TOMORROW

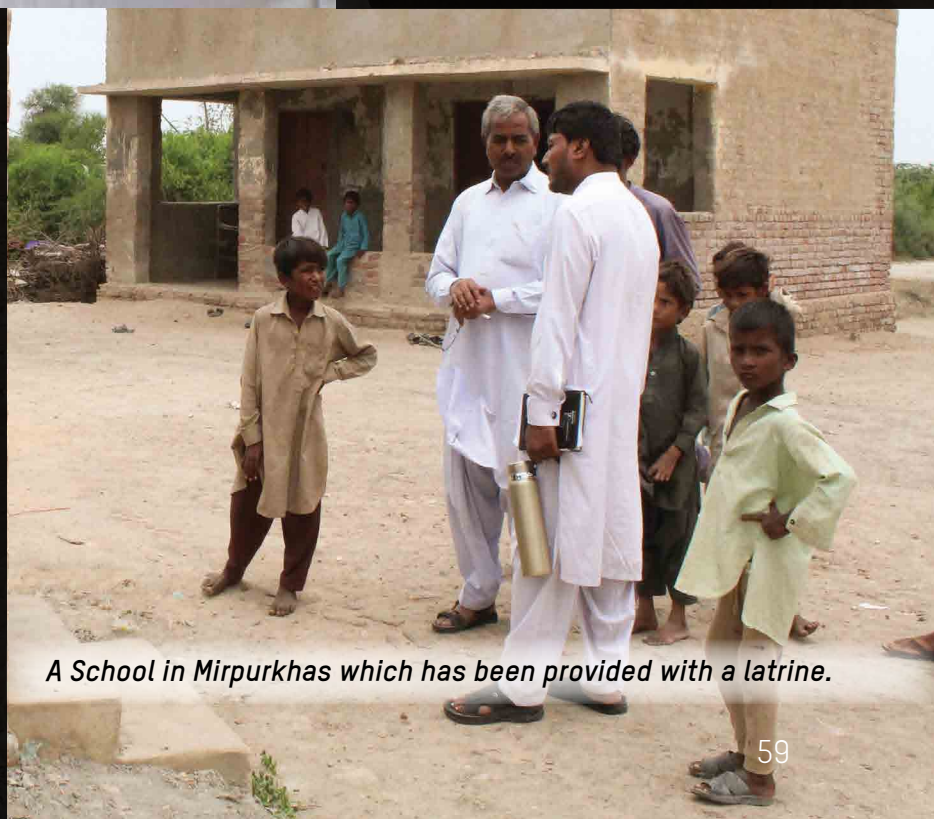


**ENHANCING LEARNING SPACES
FOR A BRIGHTER
FUTURE**



As part of the recovery interventions, SPO has supported multiple public schools by providing latrines. The absence of latrines, poses both hygiene and health challenges for the students, enrolled in these schools.

*"Before, there was **no washroom**, girls and boys were facing **serious problem**. Even I, as a teacher, had no place to go. Now, the **kids are very happy**. The **washroom** is close to the school, and they can use it easily."*
Mal, a school teacher, expressed his gratitude.



A School in Mirpurkhas which has been provided with a latrine.



A Solar filtration
plant which has
been rehabilitated
in Sanghar.





Sabar Deeper from village Ismail Deeper, UC Sadhno, Sanghar, Sindh, received Nadi filter & also benefitted through cash-for-work.

This booklet has been
narrated, designed and curated by
Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)
and Oxfam in Pakistan.

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GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Bio-Nadi filter	A portable Bio-Sand filter used to purify water, utilizing the natural properties of sand to remove contaminants and provide clean drinking water to communities.
Cash-for-work initiative	A program where community members are paid for labour to rebuild infrastructure or clear pathways, promoting dignified earnings while supporting recovery efforts.
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card, a fundamental document in Pakistan that allows individuals to access government services, register for exams, and assert their rights.
Early recovery interventions	Actions taken soon after a disaster to stabilize the situation, provide immediate relief, and lay the groundwork for longer-term recovery and rebuilding efforts.
Flood-affected communities	Groups of people who have experienced significant disruption and damage due to flooding, often requiring support to rebuild infrastructure and restore access to essential services.
Kitchen Gardening Kit	A set of tools and seeds provided to households for growing vegetables, aimed at enhancing food security and providing an income source.
Latrine	A toilet facility, often constructed as part of recovery interventions to improve hygiene and health in communities.
Laundry Pad	A designated area for washing clothes that provides convenience and reduces the need for long-distance travel, often paired with handpumps for water supply.
Livestock beneficiary	Individuals or families who receive animals as part of support programs to enhance food security and provide additional income sources.
Monsoon flood	Seasonal heavy rains that cause extensive flooding, leading to damage of infrastructure, displacement of communities, and increased health risks due to water contamination and lack of sanitation facilities.

Term	Definition
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority, the organization responsible for issuing National identity cards in Pakistan.
Oxfam	Oxfam is a global movement of people who are fighting inequality to end poverty and injustice. Across regions, from the local to the global, while working with people to bring change that lasts.
Protection Committee	A village-level group formed to empower women and girls, ensuring their protection and safety, and addressing issues like education and violence.
Ramp	A sloped surface added to facilities like latrines to improve accessibility for individuals using wheelchairs.
Solar filtration plant	A facility that uses solar energy to power the filtration of water, providing a sustainable and clean water source for communities.
SPO	Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental, rights and responsibilities-based organization registered under the Section 42 of Companies Act 2017 of Pakistan serving to improve the well-being of communities and citizens of Pakistan by creating their awareness of the basic rights and ensuring their access to those rights.
Sustainable access	Ensuring long-term availability and reliability of essential resources like clean drinking water, often through community-driven initiatives and appropriate technologies.
Throat infection	An illness commonly exacerbated by poor sanitation and lack of clean water, often mentioned in the context of health.

