



International
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**Inauguration of Rural Enterprises in Mirpurkhas
on
18 December 2015 (Friday)**

**Brief description of the Rural Enterprises (First Women Bakery and the Rural
Computer Literacy Centre) developed under the One-UN Project Livelihood
Restoration, protection and Sustainable empowerment of Vulnerable
Peasant Communities in Sindh Province**

About the Project and how it relates to OPHRD: The Pakistan Decent Work Country Programme II supports Pakistan's efforts to apply 12 of the 34 ratified conventions, including the 8 FCs. This project supports the application of C-142 and R195 on Human Resources Development, Education, Training and Lifelong Learning, and promotes the ratification of C142 and C177 on home-based work, in which women predominate. Since the Sindh Industrial Relations Act of 2013 has recognized the agriculture and fisheries workers as industrial workers, therefore C11 (ratified by the British Regime in 1932 and adopted as such by the Pakistan Government in 1947) is also implied and the project thereunder is promoting unionization of agriculture workers.

When: 1 February 2013 – 30 June 2016

Donor: United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)

Where is the Project focused?: Project is benefiting the human security of some 11,800 rural families within 120 target villages located in the command areas of the Daulat Pur Minor and Jamrao and Gorke Minor of the Mithrao Canal of Mirpurkhas District and "tail-end" of the command area of the Dadu "Rice Canal" of Dadu District, both in Sindh Province. This translates into an estimated 64,000 haris and 22,000 non-haris (men, women, boys and girls) benefiting from the Project's agricultural production and marketing, skills and business development, social security, social empowerment and capacity building interventions. Specific areas covered by the project are:

District	Talukah	UC	Villages
Dadu	KN Shah	Gozo	1) Chappar Khan Gadehi, 2) Fateh Muhammad Gadehi, 3) Jaro Khan, 4) Khushalani, 5) Sher Muhammad Gadehi, 6) Sultan Khan Gadehi
		Mitho Babar	1) Ahori, 2) Abdullah Mallah, 3) Kumbh Shareef
		KandaiChokhi	1) Ahmed Khan Laghari, 2) Azi Naich, 3) Baid, 4) Bero Khan, 5) Gharo, 6) Khair Muhammad, 7) Looja, 8) Nabi Bux, 9) Rejh Pur, 10) Sahi Khan Laghari, 11) Satar Dino Deeper
MirpurKhas	MirpurKhas	Makhan Sammo	1) Dayo Patel, 2) Dewan Sahab, 3) Sanjhar Khaskheli
MirpurKhas	Sujababd	Doulatpur	1) Balauch Farm, 2) Daulat Laghari, 3) HoutKhan Laghari, 4) Jam Laghari, 5) Noor Muahmmad, 6) Shafi Muhammad, 7) Umar Farm

What necessitated the Project: Pakistan is struggling with low social development indicators, ranking 146 out of 186 countries in the United Nation's Human Development Index and with a Gender Development Index ranking of 123 out of 160 countries of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) 2013 Human Development Report. In 2008, it was estimated that 45 million people are severely food insecure and almost 40 percent of children are underweight. The Sindh Province with its population of 34 million forms one-fifth of Pakistan's total population of 180 million. Some 51 percent of Sindh's population is rural, primarily depending on agriculture for their income and livelihoods. However, 85 percent of the land is owned by less than two percent of the population. The adult literacy rates are abysmal, at ten percent for women and 35 percent for men. These socio-economic anomalies of Sindh were further perplexed when in July, 2010, unexpected monsoon rains caused flooding of a significant magnitude affecting the entire length of Pakistan. Sindh was the most severely affected province of the 2010 floods with some 970,000 households suffering agricultural losses estimated at USD 2,301.6 million. Districts that suffered the highest losses in Sindh Province included Qambar Shahdad Kot, Jacobabad, Dadu and Jamshoro. 90 percent of the rural population in Sindh Province were directly affected because their primary occupations were the crop production and animal husbandry. Most of them were sharecroppers and agricultural wage labourers. Other job opportunities in the rural Sindh were limited to few trades such as blacksmiths, carpenters, water carriers, weavers, barbers and other services. The population in rural parts of Sindh Province with national identity cards¹ ranges from two-thirds for males and one-third for females. This means that access to formal credit is impossible, ownership of land cannot be granted and the right to vote cannot be exercised. Women in the informal sector are usually atomised as home-based piece-rate workers. Having no control over production processes, informal women workers are

vulnerable and dependent on those supplying them with work, often middlemen. Low levels of remuneration do not contribute to women's empowerment; in fact, this kind of work is often burdens and oppresses the female further. The Project is designed to avert the above said challenges in the socio-economic fabric of Sindh. In response to this devastation caused by the flood, the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN-WOMEN of the United Nations has launched a three year project (2013-2016) entitled "Livelihood Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Empowerment of Vulnerable Peasant Communities in Sindh Province" in selected areas within Dadu and Mirpurkhas Districts. The project is funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS).

GOAL OF PROJECT: To restore and protect the livelihoods and empower the poor and vulnerable peasants dependent on the feudal, tribal landholding and farming systems and effected by droughts, floods and insecurity

OBJECTIVES: Following are the three main objectives of the project:

1. To improve the livelihoods and economic security of rural communities through in-kind support to restore and/or protect the farm production capacities and off-farm income generating activities of vulnerable peasant families and well-targeted progressive landlords – which, in turn, would have a positive impact on their disaster reliance,
2. To enhance the skills and knowledge base of men and women peasant farmers, landless people and unemployed youth through technical support in GAPs, post-harvest management and vocational skills,
3. To empower peasant organizations, farmers organizations, WUAs, farmers and women groups, etc and their constituent hari members to enhance their natural resource base (land, water, vegetation, etc) while strengthening their resilience to future shocks.

Project Implementation: The Project is jointly developed by ILO, FAO and UN-Women with distinct areas of interventions for each agency managed by a common Project Management Unit. In total, the Project is steered by a committee led by the Additional Chief Secretary-Development, government of Sindh and there are district advisories committees chaired by the respective Deputy Commissioners in both of the project districts. Midterm review of the project has expressed satisfaction over the projects progression towards the results and the recommendations of the MTR mission are being seriously catered to.

The Enterprise Development Initiatives: The project has applied strategies for creating and strengthening the rural enterprises. Enterprising individuals for this purpose were identified mostly from among those who were earlier trained in various vocational skills. Needs of the entrepreneurs were assessed and they were provided advance training in enterprise development and were also educated in Know About Business (KAB) module of ILO. The entrepreneurs were also provided necessary tool kits for enabling them to kick start their enterprises. The First women Bakery has been setup by a group of 25 enterprising women who had earlier received elementary training in baking skills. The women also received appropriate toolkits and then they put their skills to action and started earning for

themselves. They were preparing bakery items and were selling their produce in local schools, houses and the rural markets within and around their village. Encouraged by their own abilities and potentials, the enterprising women decided to setup the First women Bakery. They have materialized their dream of setting up the bakery, which they hope will soon grow and become competitive with other renowned bakeries in the urban locations.

The rural IT literacy Centre is yet another example of entrepreneurialism demonstrated by the rural youth. A group of 25 unemployed youth who had secondary or higher secondary education and who couldn't continue their education were identified. Most of these folks had indulged into unhealthy activities and their unemployment was a great source of discouragement for them. When they learned about the vocational training programme being offered in their village, they enrolled for the elementary IT course and after receiving the training and toolkits, they setup a basic IT centre and some of them also managed to found jobs and paid work. The entrepreneurial group of youth has received support from the ILO and they have setup an IT literacy centre from where they are training hundreds of youth in sellable IT skills.

Both the enterprises are linked to micro-finance providers. These micro-finance providers are also providing group lending and thus the enterprises for their further growth can get their financial needs locally served.