



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

Basic Education and Employable Skill Training Pakistan (BEST-Pak)



Basic Education and Employable Skill Training
Pakistan (BEST-Pak)

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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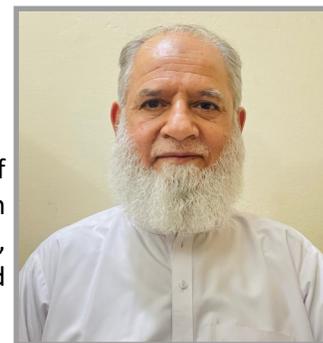
Group Photo of the participants of trigger validation workshop under AAP project at DI Khan— Photo credit: BEST-Pak

ACRONYMS

AA	Anticipatory Action
AAP	Anticipatory Action Protocols
AWS	Automatic Weather Stations
BBCM	Broad Based Community Meeting
BEST-Pak	Basic Education and Employable Skill Training Pakistan
BoD	Board of Directors
CSP	Community Stabilization Project
DI Khan	Dera Ismail Khan
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Response
EWS	Early Warning System
EYCs	Elected Youth Councilors
FFA	Food for Assets
GC	Gender Committee
GPG	Girls Peer Group
GRC	Grievance Redressal Committee
IGA	Income Generating Activity
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
NHN	National Humanitarian Network
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PCP	Pakistan Center for Philanthropy
PSS	Psychosocial Support Services
RSGs	Rehabilitation Support Groups
SBMT	Small Business Management Training
SDC	Skill Development Council
SMEDA	Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VDRMC	Village Disaster Risk Management Committee
WAG	Women Advisory Group
WBC	Whistle Blower Committee
WFP	World Food Programme

Foreword

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present to you the Annual Report 2024 of Basic Education and Employable Skill Training Pakistan (BEST-Pak). This past year has been a testament to our unwavering commitment to empowering marginalized communities, promoting inclusive development, and responding with vigilance to both persistent and emerging challenges.



The past year has been pivotal in deepening our engagement with vulnerable communities, especially in conflict- and disaster-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Building on the foundations laid during the early recovery phase in 2023, we expanded our focus in 2024 to include strategic resilience-building and rights-based community development initiatives.

Our efforts in District Khyber and Dera Ismail Khan, in partnership with esteemed organizations like UNDP and WFP, stand out as milestones of inclusive progress. Through the Rights-Based Community Stabilization Project, we successfully supported the reintegration and rehabilitation of at-risk youth, while ensuring psychosocial support, education, and livelihood training within culturally sensitive and community-led frameworks. Simultaneously, our work under the Conditional Cash Assistance and Anticipatory Action Planning projects helped communities recover from flood impacts, improve food security, and prepare for future climatic risks with foresight and readiness.

These achievements reflect not only the resilience of the communities we have served but also the dedication of our team and the value of our partnerships. From establishing Gender Desks and vocational training centers to fostering inclusive governance through youth and women’s groups, BEST-Pak has stayed true to its mission of empowering the underserved with dignity and opportunity.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, local partners, and above all, the communities who continue to trust us as catalysts of change. I am also grateful to our donors and governmental collaborators whose support remains vital in enabling us to expand our reach and impact.

As we move ahead, our resolve is stronger than ever. We remain committed to building a peaceful, educated, and self-reliant society—where no one is left behind.

I invite you to explore this report as a reflection of shared progress and as an inspiration to continue working together for a just and resilient future.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hamish Khan'.

Hamish Khan
Managing Director
BEST-Pak

Executive Summary

In 2024, BEST-Pak continued its mission of empowering vulnerable communities through targeted, high-impact interventions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, demonstrating both quantitative achievements and qualitative transformation. Over the course of the year, the organization implemented multiple projects that collectively served thousands of beneficiaries, strengthened institutional systems, and contributed to long-term community resilience. More than 20,000 trees were planted to reinforce environmental sustainability, while automatic weather stations were installed to enhance early warning systems. Simultaneously, the project emphasized women's empowerment, with 133 female participants benefiting from enterprise development training, advanced skills development, and market exposure visits.

One of the most impactful initiatives was the Rights-Based Community Stabilization Project in District Khyber, implemented in partnership with UNDP. This project successfully reintegrated 200 at-risk youth—100 male and 100 female—through a comprehensive model that combined psychosocial support, vocational training, and community engagement. The project conducted 680 individual counseling sessions, 518 group sessions, and 182 family counseling sessions. It formed and trained 12 Rehabilitation Support Groups comprising 144 community members, supported by over 5,000 residents reached through community sensitization sessions on peace and tolerance. The establishment of a Gender Desk, which registered and addressed 239 cases, added a strong institutional mechanism for gender equity. With a 100% pass rate among trainees and over 96% of male participants either employed or running businesses, the project not only rehabilitated youth but also laid the groundwork for economic independence and social cohesion.

In Dera Ismail Khan, BEST-Pak advanced its recovery and resilience programming with support from WFP through the Conditional Cash Assistance (FFA) Project. This initiative disbursed monthly cash assistance to 3,450 flood-affected households, while engaging communities in asset creation such as the construction of seven flood-resilient houses, eight culverts, seven raised evacuation platforms,

Another critical milestone was the successful completion of the Anticipatory Action Planning Project, also in Dera Ismail Khan. This initiative, guided by scientific methodologies and stakeholder consensus, led to the development and testing of localized Anticipatory Action Protocols for five flood-prone union councils. A comprehensive risk assessment covering over 115,000 residents was conducted, and the resulting protocols were validated through workshops and simulation exercises involving district and provincial stakeholders. The project created a scalable model for pre-disaster planning, positioning BEST-Pak as a leader in forecast-based response initiatives in Pakistan.

Across all interventions, BEST-Pak maintained its commitment to accountability, participation, and gender inclusion. Internal committees on grievance redressal, conflict of interest, recruitment, training, and whistleblowing ensured transparent operations. Close collaboration with government departments, local bodies, and community institutions facilitated not just implementation but long-term sustainability of outcomes.

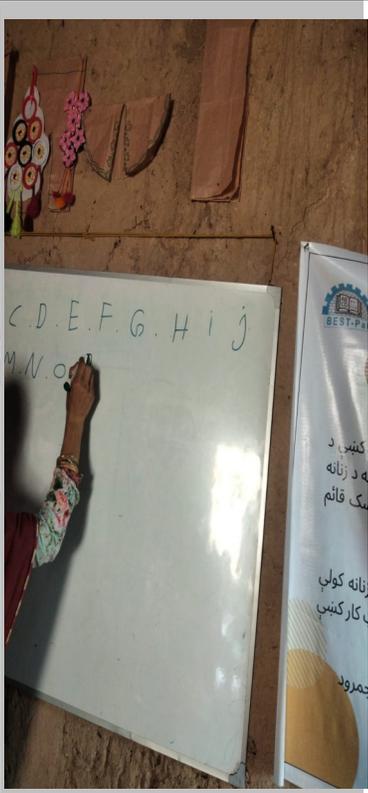
Through a combination of technical precision and community-centered approaches, BEST-Pak in 2024 reached new heights in transforming vulnerability into opportunity, marking a year of both measurable progress and meaningful change.



BEST-PAK VISION, MISSION, VALUES AND OBJECTIVES



Miscellaneous Pictures of BEST-Pak Activities at field level



VISION

Creation of peaceful and developed civil society where developed human resources and economic opportunities are equally available to men and women in enabling environment.

MISSION

To contribute to poverty alleviation through provision of basic education, employable skill training and micro/small enterprise development leading to income generation and employment opportunities in a sustainable manner.

VALUES

BEST-Pak core concept and values stand very high in services delivery. It believes in quality work, innovations, and mutual understanding. For the best interest of the communities, BEST-Pak strictly adheres to the below mentioned values:

- ◆ Mutual Respect and Trust
- ◆ Respect for Humanity
- ◆ Honesty & Integrity
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Transparency
- ◆ Participation
- ◆ Efficiency & Effectiveness

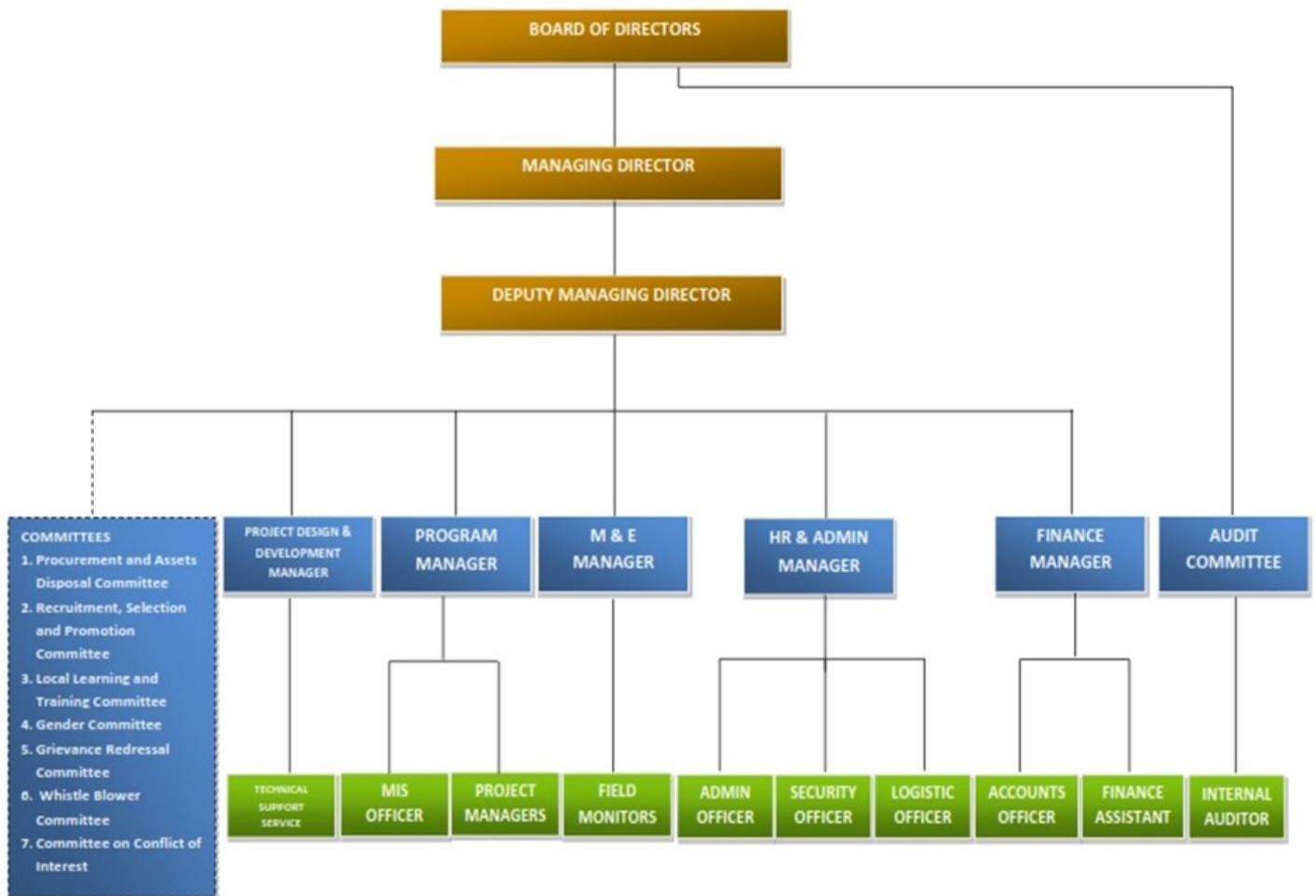
OBJECTIVES

BEST-Pak focuses on socio-economic development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, Poverty Reduction Strategy, National Disaster Management Plan and other relevant Plans of the Government of Pakistan.

The main objectives of BEST-Pak are to:

- Provide the means for people (male/female) to obtain basic education (formal and non-formal).
- Provide the means for people (male/female) to acquire vocational, technical or other skills leading to decent livelihoods.
- Combat child labor through education and employable skill training.
- Mobilize and empower community participation for sustainable development.
- Provide water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion services.
- Establish linkages with Government agencies and other NGOs / CSOs having common objectives for optimal utilization of available resources for community development.
- Raise general awareness and provide assistance for environmental protection.
- Engage in any other development, capacity building and livelihood activities for the uplift of the poorest, most needed and marginalized sectors of the society.
- Undertake any emergency, relief and DRR related activities.

ORGANOGRAM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors (BoD) is primarily responsible for overseeing the organization affairs, setting the vision, mission and its goals and ensuring that the organization achieves its planned objectives. The Board oversees the effectiveness of management as well as operation of the organization. According to the constitution of BEST-Pak, Board of Directors is the supreme body and responsible for setting goals/objectives for the operation of the organization. Board of Directors is actively involved and provides technical backup in the execution of Programme activities. Board of Directors reviews and approves annual action plan, budget and their implementation procedures.

BoD is responsible for conducting at least two meetings per calendar year. In these meetings, the Board of Directors critically reviews progress of the ongoing projects towards set goals. They identify gaps and suggest remedial measures to the Managing Director and project implementation teams for effective implementation.

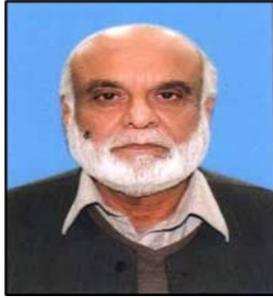
For the purpose of an effective control and transparency in the organization, various committees including Audit, Procurement and Assets Disposal, Recruitment and Promotion, Local Learning and Training, Grievance Redressal, Gender committee, Whistle blower committee and Committee on Conflict of Interest have been established. BoD regularly reviews the standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and makes changes where necessary to improve the service delivery in an effective, transparent and accountable manner. BoD also approves publication i-e Brochures, Assessment Reports and Annual External Audit Report.

BoD members pay regular visits to the project sites and take keen interest in the implementation of project activities.

The BoD comprises of five dedicated professionals coming from different walks of life and diverse backgrounds. The brief profile of each member is as follow:

Mr. Syed Halim Shah Chairman

Literary and well-recognized personality Syed Halim Shah is a famous name in the field of Technical & Vocational Training in KP and having more than 40 years of diversified experience. He graduated from University of Peshawar and obtained Diploma in Electrical Engineering from GCT Peshawar. Syed Halim Shah received various Trainings abroad as well as inside the country in the sector of Technical & Vocational Training. He started his career in 1968 and remained at various Posts in several Training institutions in Pakistan. He remained as Advisor with GIZ Pak German Technical Training Program and also worked with SSEP (Swiss Project) for training of Workers. He has been working as a Director Skill Development Council Peshawar since 2007. His excellence and contribution in the field of Technical & Vocational Training and research have brought his recognition at the Provincial and Country level.



support and invaluable guidance to the organization. He is source of immense inspiration and support to BEST-Pak.

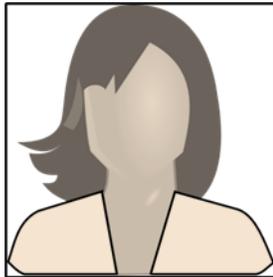
Mr. Muhammad Azam Member

A highly motivated personality with more than 15 years of experience. He did his Mater in Commerce and completed C.A articles from a Chartered Account firm. He has started his professional carrier from an audit firm and has served the humanitarian sector for 13 years. He has specialty in accounting and finance and is skilled in developing robust internal controls, and guidelines/procedures to support accounting functions. He has performed financial reporting to different UN agencies and other national and international donors from the onset of his carrier in humanitarian sector. In his capacity as BoD member he is rendering excellent technical assistance and extended valuable support to the internal audit committee and finance section of BEST-Pak.



Ms. Shamim Akhtar Vice –Chairperson

Ms. Shamim Ahsan is an enterprise development specialist and supports NGOs partners and communities in enterprise development. Ms. Shamim having multi sectorial expertise in different areas including Enterprise Development, Marketing Information System and Gender Based Governance System is supporting BEST-Pak by providing Technical guidance in micro enterprise development and other income generation related activities.



Mr. Muhammad Sher (Member)

Mr. Sher originally hails from the remote, conflict- hit and extremely underdeveloped Mohmand district of Pakistan. He has widely travelled and has been educated and trained at prestigious national and international institutions across the globe. He has specialized in projects related to Disaster and Conflict Management; Expert in DDR (Disarmament/Demobilization and Reintegration) and H.E.L.P (Health Emergencies in Large Population), Post Disaster and Post –Conflict Situation Management. Mr. Sher holds strategic and creative Management experience; he has proven abilities in negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution and capability to influence and communicate at all levels across political and cultural divides.



Mr. Akbar Yousaf Khalil (Member)

Seasoned Legal Expert and Advisor, Mr. Khalil is an extremely kind and Supportive person. He is working for the poor and down-trodden in the society since long without even expecting any remuneration. He always takes lead in working for the noble cause at his own expense. He is providing legal assistance to those who cannot afford to hire lawyers for justice to be done. He is inspirational member of Board of Directors of BEST-Pak. He is extending his full cooperation and



SECTIONS OF BEST-PAK

BEST-Pak has established the following sections to smoothly run the functions of the organization:

- **Project Design & Development Section**

Project design and development section has been strengthened with technical support from a pool of specialists / resource persons from different sectors to design and develop various projects. This section is actively engaged with project ideas and concepts strategies, Proposal writing, Project planning, implementation, resource mobilizations, and preparation of reports according to the donor's requirements. It provides orientation and support to the newly appointed staff members, while providing technical inputs to the project implementing teams during the execution period.

- **Program Implementation Section**

Program Implementation Section is responsible for the effective, efficient and timely execution of project activities according to the guidelines set by the project document/agreement signed with the donor in the respective geographical areas. The Program Implementation Section records and disseminates information on Lessons Learnt and Good Practices to further replicate these models in other similar interventions. It also supports project design and development in proposal writing and concept note development

- **Human Resource Management & Development Section**

BEST-Pak believes that its human resource is an asset and Human Resource Development is an integral part of its policies. BEST-Pak allocates reasonable amount in its annual budget for the training and development of its personnel to keep them motivated, updated on their knowledge and skills enabling them to improve their performance and contribute to their career development.

A. Admin sub-section: it is headed by a competent Admin Officer, who is taking care of all admin needs as well as full fledges Admin support to ongoing projects.

B. Security Wing: This wing is headed by a retired army officer, as Security advisor, he provides all type of security support/protection to BEST-Pak and also responsible for providing security training to staff members. BEST-Pak

through its Security wing ensures proper and timely measures to provide effective security cover to staff working in the field and offices.

- **Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting Section**

BEST-Pak has established an independent Monitoring and Reporting (MER) Section. Monitoring and reporting of various projects activities provides management with timely and relevant information for quick and remedial actions. It facilitates better means for learning from past experiences, improving services delivery, planning and allocating resources, and demonstrating results as part of accountability to key stakeholders. Within the organization there is a strong focus on results - which helps explain the growing interest in MER. Depending upon the nature of the projects MER section also submits daily, weekly and monthly monitoring reports to the Managing Director and concerned Project Managers.

- **Finance & Accounts Section**

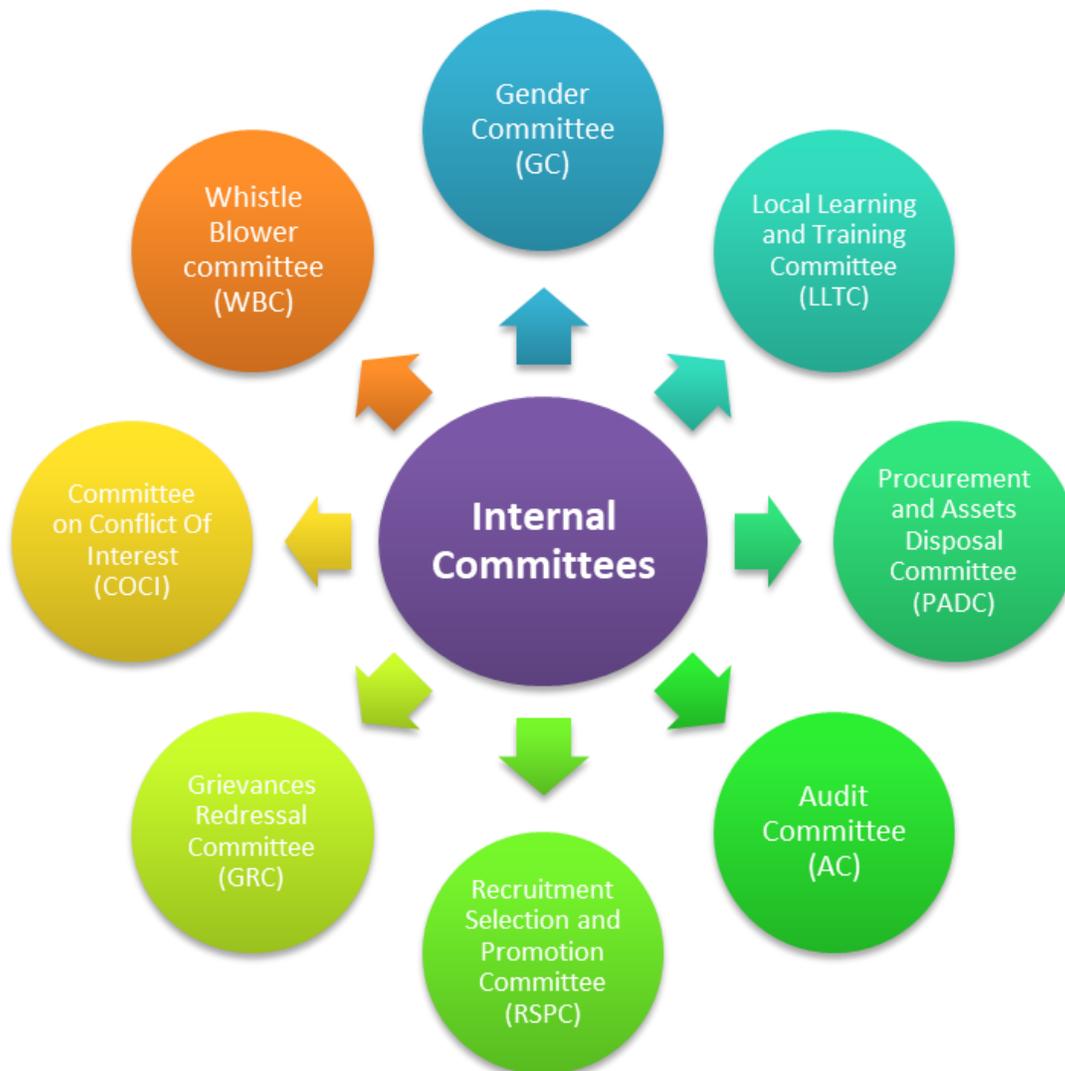
Finance and account section manages financial and accounting matters including preparation and presentation of appropriate accounts, provision of financial information to Managing Director, Board of Directors, Program Manager, Operational (Project) Managers and Donor Agencies. BEST-Pak established financial and control systems to ensure efficiency, transparency, accountability and internal control system within the organization.

BEST-Pak has developed Finance Manual which provides guidelines to all organization employees including program implementation Section regarding the organization's financial policy and procedures. Furthermore, Finance and Account Section is responsible for record keeping of funds from donors and other income and expenses, preparation of financial statements, balance sheet, financial status reports of projects to project managers for decision making and financial reports for donors on periodic basis.

Finance & Accounts Section ensures all transactions to be made in accordance to the approved Finance Manual, SOPs and guidelines of the donor Agencies.

INTERNAL COMMITTEES IN BEST-PAK

The following committees have been established to bring participation, efficiency, transparency and accountability in all operations undertaken by BEST-Pak. Transparency and internal control promote participatory monitoring of organizational activities, providing focus for advocacy and lobbying, sharing information and experiences, building joint capacity and supporting each other activities in various projects. It also promotes code of conduct, good practices, and ethical behavior. In order to ensure transparency and internal control system in BEST-Pak, the following independent committees are established with clearly defined terms of reference to strengthen decision making process in BEST-Pak operation.



- **Recruitment Selection and Promotion Committee (RSPC)**
- **Local Learning and Training Committee (LLTC)**

The recruitment and promotion of human resources are important functions of any organization to ensure right person for the right job. BEST-Pak gives high value to this area and therefore established the Recruitment Selection and Promotion Committee for transparent and on merit based decision making.

The purpose of the Local Learning and Training Committee is to build and enhance capacity of human resources and enable them to perform effectively in their fields. Human resource development encompasses the process of equipping individuals with understanding of required skills and access to information, knowledge and training.

- **Gender Committee (GC)**

The purpose of Gender Committee is to ensure safe and conducive working environment to all staff members irrespective of gender, facilitates provision of equal opportunities in recruitment, promotion, training and career development. It should further support gender mainstreaming in all programs and thematic areas.

- **Grievances Redressal Committee (GRC)**

In order to continuously improve quality of our services and satisfaction of the target communities' feedback of the target beneficiaries regarding the services delivered by BEST-Pak is of utmost importance. It creates trust building and ensures accountability and transparency upon resource used for the target communities. It is more important to respond on grievances reported by the target communities. The Grievances Redressal Committee is established to timely address the grievances of the target communities for satisfactory service delivery.

- **Committee on Conflict Of Interest (COCI)**

Identifying and managing conflict of interest (COI) is essential to shaping fair, transparent and ethical culture in any non-profit organizations. A conflict of interest arises when an individual's private interests compete with his/her professional obligations to an organization, which may result in the exercise of partial and biased judgment, and such situations can badly damage the integrity and reputation of the organization.

In the light of the above facts BEST-Pak has also established a Committee on Conflict of Interest, consisting of senior Management members to advise organization bodies and individual staff members. COCI works according to the Policy of Conflict of interest approved by BEST-Pak.

- **Whistle Blower committee (WBC)**

A significant feature of accountability and transparency is a mechanism to enable individuals and groups to voice concerns in a responsible and effective manner, when they discover information which they believe shows serious malpractice or which are unethical.

For this purpose BEST-Pak established Whistle blowing Committee with the responsibility to provide an opportunity to employees to report to the Management instances of unethical behavior, actual or suspected, fraud or violation of the organization's code of conduct. Committee works in accordance with the whistle blower policy approved by BEST-Pak.

POLICIES AND STANDARDS FOR OPERATIONS

The operations of BEST-Pak are guided by certain well defined and approved polices and standard procedures to ensure adherence to its values, transparency, accountability, internal control, humanitarian principles and effective service delivery to the target beneficiaries. The BoD has approved the following policies, manuals and guidelines:



MEMBERSHIP AND CERTIFICATION

BEST-Pak is an active member of sectoral working groups, National Humanitarian Network (NHN), Skill Development Council (SDC), Human Resource Development Network (HRDN), and Global Network of Civil Society Organization for Disaster Reduction (GNDR). BEST-Pak is also certified by Pakistan Center for Philanthropy (PCP).

THEMATIC AREAS

Following the organization's objectives, BEST-Pak is working in the under-mentioned thematic areas to support the most deprived and neglected segment of the Society from the shackles of poverty.

- * Primary Education
- * Non-Formal Education
- * Community Participation and Development
- * Human Resource Development
- * Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- * Emergency, Relief and Recovery Operation
- * Community Physical Infrastructure
- * Livelihood
- * Disaster Risk Reduction & Response
- * Protection Services
- * Governance

BEST-PAK PARTNERS IN 2024



LIST OF PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE YEAR 2024

S#	Project Title	Funding Source	Project Activities	Location
1	Rights-based Community Stabilization Project (CSP) in Tribal district Khyber	UNDP	Provide psychosocial Support Services to the radicalized youth and their families. Provide institutional/ Centre –based livelihood trainings in market-driven trades to the selected male and female youth.	Tribal District Khyber
2	Conditional Cash Assistance (Food For Assets Creation-FFA) Project	UNWFP	Provide conditional Cash Assistance of Rs 12000 per cycle/month through WFP financial service provider to 3450 flood affected households by engaging them in the construction of community assets affected by 2022 floods and capacity building activities, resulting in the recovery of livelihoods, enhanced resilience, improved food security and sustainable recovery	District Dera Ismail Khan
3	Anticipatory Action Planning Project District Dera Ismail Khan	UNWFP	Develop a comprehensive document of Anticipatory Action Plan which shows a clear and scientifically well calculated triggers and threshold, subsequent Early Warning System and plan of action for the riverine flood prone areas of the Dera Ismail Khan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan.	District Dera Ismail Khan

Rights-Based Community Stabilization Project in Tribal District Khyber



Pictures of the project activities — CSP Khyber/BEST-Pak

Project Name	Rights-Based Community Stabilization Project District Khyber
Modality	Psychosocial Support and livelihood Skill Training
Project Donor	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Target Areas	06 prioritized Union Councils of District Khyber
Reporting Period	From July 3, 2023, to November 20, 2024

Overview

The Right-based community stabilization project was implemented by BEST-Pak in Partnership with UNDP in the Bara and Jamrud Tehsils of District Khyber. The project aimed to create peaceful, inclusive, and rights-based society. The project focused on strengthening societal resilience and state-society linkages particularly in the disengagement and reintegration of 200 at-risk youth. The project prioritized reintegration within community settings, emphasizing rights-based, gender-sensitive, and culturally appropriate interventions. Key strategies included the formation and training of Rehabilitation Support Groups (RSGs), delivery of Psychosocial Support Services (PSS), basic education and livelihoods skill training, and the establishment of gender-focused groups and a Gender Desk. The project also conducted community sensitization sessions and capacity building for local councilors, ensuring institutionalization and sustainability through stakeholder collaboration.

The project achieved significant milestones, including the democratic establishment and training of 12 RSGs, which played a crucial role in community participation and resilience. Baseline assessments were conducted for 402 youth, leading to the selection of 200 vulnerable beneficiaries. Comprehensive PSS was provided to these individuals, with 680 individual and 518 group-counseling sessions, along with family and mentor sessions. Livelihoods skill training was delivered, with a 100% pass rate, and market linkages were established, resulting in significant placement and business establishment. A Gender Desk was established and handed over to the Social Welfare Department, registering and resolving numerous cases. Training programs for Elected Youth Councilors (EYCs) and teachers were conducted, equipping them to counter violent narratives and promote community resilience. Women's Advisory and Girls' Peer Groups were formed and engaged in project activities, enhancing gender mainstreaming. Community sensitization sessions reached 5,000 residents, promoting peaceful coexistence. An outreach strategy, including social media campaigns, panel discussions, and a national conference, disseminated key messages of peace and tolerance.

Project Target Area

The Right-based community stabilization project was implemented in district Khyber, targeting in Bara and Jamrud Tehsils. Village councils within these tehsils were selected through a

systematic process based on established criteria. The specific project interventions were implemented across six village councils, four in Bara and two in Jamrud.

Project Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to foster a peaceful, inclusive, and rights-based society in the merged district of Khyber. The project aimed to build resilience in local communities, especially among the vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population. The two main impacts of the project are the strengthening of societal resilience against violence and state-society linkages with a specific focus on the disengagement and reintegration of 200 (100 men, 100 women) at risk youth.

The Project Approach & Its Implementation

The project adopted a tested community-led model for the disengagement and rehabilitation of at-risk youth, aiming to build resilience against violent narratives within District Khyber. It utilized a civilian-led approach, focusing on reintegration within the community rather than controlled institutional settings.

The project's implementation strategy was rights-based, gender-sensitive, and culturally appropriate, emphasizing participatory approaches and contextual adaptation to local needs. Key activities included the formation and training of RSGs, delivery of Psychosocial Support Services, delivery of Basic Education & Livelihoods skill training, and establishment of a Gender Desk, Women Advisory Groups, and Girls Peer Groups. The project also included community sensitization sessions and capacity building for local councilors. Furthermore, the project prioritized institutionalization and sustainability through stakeholder collaboration and academic outreach.

The methodology was based on three key features including the formation, training, and engagement of Rehabilitation Support Groups (RSGs), Psychosocial Support, and Basic Education & Vocational Skills Training. RSGs, formed and strengthened with youth participation, played a crucial role in identifying vulnerable youth and facilitating their access to support services. Psychosocial support addressed the drivers of radical tendencies, while vocational training and job placement interventions aimed to foster economic self-reliance and positive behavioral change.

Achievements Of The Project

The project successfully achieved its key objectives by fostering community resilience, supporting vulnerable youth, and countering violent extremism in Khyber District. The key achievements of the project is highlighted as under.

Rehabilitation Support Groups (RSGs) Formation and Engagement

The project successfully formed and trained 12 Rehabilitation Support Groups (RSGs) in a democratic manner—four in Bara and two in Jamrud tehsils. These groups played a vital role in promoting community participation, resilience, and countering violent narratives. Their formation involved corner meetings with 78 community influencers, 12 broad-based community meetings, democratic elections, and the training of 144 RSG members. These members were further linked with relevant service providers to strengthen their community support roles.

Baseline Assessment of Vulnerable Youth

To identify the most at-risk individuals for intervention, a baseline assessment was conducted targeting youth in conflict-prone areas. A total of 402 interviews were conducted, evenly split between male and female respondents. The data collected was analyzed and submitted to UNDP, leading to the selection of 100 most vulnerable youth (50 men and 50 women) for further project activities.

Psychosocial Support Services

Psychosocial Support (PSS) was provided to 200 youth, including 100 men and 100 women, focusing on psychological well-being and community reintegration. The project collaborated with academic institutions like the University of Peshawar to develop scientific and tailored PSS plans. Services included 680 individual counseling sessions, 518 group sessions, and 182 family counseling sessions. Mentorship by 10 reintegrated youth and soft-skills training further supported personal growth. Recreational activities and a referral mechanism for advanced psychological and legal support complemented the intervention. An end-line assessment of all PSS beneficiaries was conducted and submitted to UNDP.

Livelihood Skill Training and Employment Support

The project conducted a market assessment to identify high-demand skills and designed vocational training for 200 youth (100 men and 100 women). Trades included Solar PV, mobile repair, welding, and fashion design. Partnerships with technical institutes and community-based centers ensured quality training delivery. A three-month training program included practical, theoretical, and basic literacy components. All trainees passed the final assessment. Exposure visits and business training in collaboration with SMEDA helped build entrepreneurial skills. As a result, 96% of male trainees were employed, seven launched their own businesses, and women participants were supported in home-based entrepreneurship.

Gender Desk Establishment and Functioning

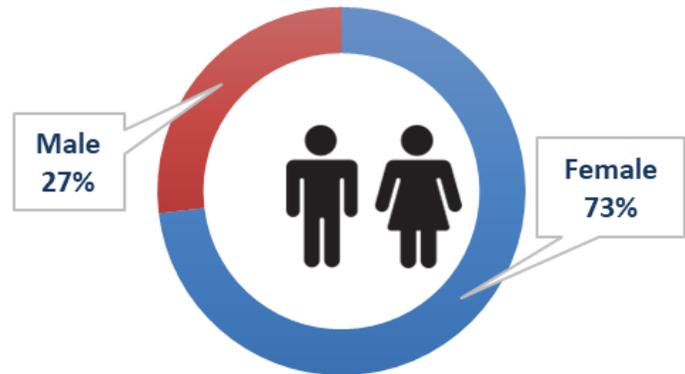
A Gender Desk was established through a partnership with the Directorate of Social Welfare Merged Areas. It became operational with official notifications and launched publicly in February 2024. The desk conducted 34 awareness sessions, reaching over 1,300 individuals directly and over 105,000 through media campaigns. It resolved 92% of the 239 cases it registered, main-

taining a gender-balanced database. The services and assets of the desk were handed over to the government to ensure sustainability.

Capacity Building of Elected Youth Councilors and Government Officials

The project conducted workshops to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of vulnerable youth, the project organized

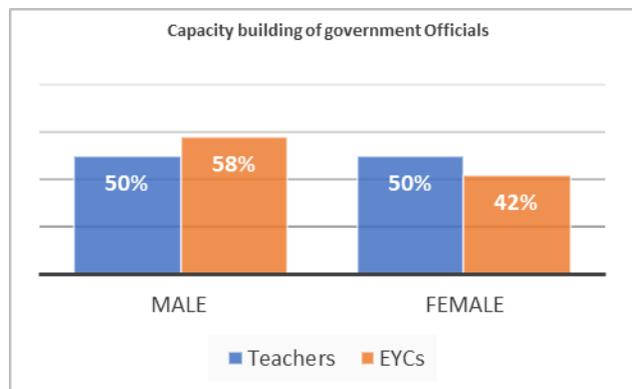
Gender-Wise Cases



targeted training sessions for 200 Elected Youth Councilors (EYC) and 400 teachers across three tehsils. These individuals were identified as key influencers in shaping youth behavior and promoting positive community values.

Seven two-day workshops were held for EYC and fifteen one-day workshops for teachers, facilitated by experts from institutions such as the University of Peshawar. The training focused on identifying early signs of radicalization, promoting tolerance, and fostering peaceful community dialogue.

The sessions were developed in coordination with government departments including LG&RDD, TMA, and the Education Department to ensure relevance, accessibility, and proper monitoring. By building the capacity of EYC and teachers, the project aimed to create a more supportive environment for at-risk youth and contribute to long-term community resilience.



Formation and Engagement of Women Advisory and Girls' peer Groups

The project formed and trained a 26-member Women Advisory Group (WAG) and a 150-member Girls Peer Group (GPG) through community outreach. These groups actively supported the project's awareness campaigns, psychosocial services, and gender desk operations. Their participation enhanced the gender-sensitive approach of the project.

Community Sensitization on Peace and Tolerance

To build broader community resilience, 98 sensitization sessions were conducted, reaching 5,000 residents. These sessions addressed peaceful coexistence, tolerance, and anti-radicalization messages. They were planned in collaboration with RSGs, WAG, GPG, and religious scholars to align messages with local norms and Islamic values.

Outreach Strategy and National Engagement

The project implemented a robust outreach strategy that included social media campaigns, public banners, panel discussions, and a national peace conference. Over 21,000 people were reached through banners, and thousands more via social media. The national conference, attended by 213 participants, focused on youth empowerment and strategies for de-radicalization.

Feedback workshops and coordination meetings ensured stakeholder engagement and sustained impact.

LESSONS LEARNT AND BEST PRACTICES

This section shall include the lessons learnt and best practices experienced during the project implementation.

Establishing strong partnerships with local government officials, community leaders, and religious scholars is essential for the success of similar projects. Their support and endorsement can significantly enhance community acceptance and participation.

Being flexible and adaptive to changing circumstances and community dynamics is important. Regular feedback and consultation with stakeholders can help in making necessary adjustments to the project plan.

Ensuring the sustainability of the project's impact requires ongoing support and follow-up with beneficiaries. Developing long-term strategies for continued community engagement and support will produce sustainable results.



Miscellaneous pictures of coordination with stakeholders, and Project Activities/BEST-Pak CSP Khyber



Conditional Cash Assistance (Food For Assets Creation-FFA) Project Dera Ismail Khan

Project Name	Conditional Cash Assistance (Food for Assets Creation-FFS) Non-CBT
Modality	Non-CBT
Project Donor	United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP)
Target Areas	03 Tehsils of District Dera Ismail Khan
Reporting Period	From December 22, 2023, to June 30, 2024

Overview of the Project

The Livelihood Development FFA Non-CBT approach project was initiated to support flood-affected communities in District DI Khan, focusing on enhancing their resilience and livelihood opportunities. The 2022 floods caused severe devastation in the region, highlighting the urgent need for robust disaster preparedness and sustainable economic development. In response, BEST-Pak, with the support of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), launched this comprehensive project to address the immediate and long-term needs of the affected communities.

The primary objectives of the project included strengthening disaster risk management, enhancing livelihood opportunities, improving infrastructure, promoting environmental sustainability, and raising community awareness. By adopting a community-based approach, the project aimed to empower local communities through capacity building, skill development, and infrastructural improvements.

The project involved multiple phases, starting with community engagement and capacity building, followed by skill development, infrastructure development, environmental activities, and continuous monitoring and evaluation. The engagement of local Village Disaster Risk Management Committees (VDRMCs) was crucial to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the project interventions. Through these concerted efforts, the project sought to create a resilient and self-reliant community capable of withstanding future disasters and fostering economic recovery.

District D I Khan is one of the most deprived districts having miserable infrastructure and underprivileged life standards. The poor law & order situation and the recent devastating flood has inflicted huge losses to the basic services delivery and the existing poor infrastructure in the district. Majority of the people have lost their resources and shelters due to the horrific flood. Livelihoods of the local community are disrupted and are mainly dependent on daily wage labor work. People are facing severe shortage of clean drinking water, water for their agricultural lands, and livestock. All these contribute to poor quality of life in the area.

WFP intervened in the emergency and relief response to address the immediate food needs of local communities at district D I Khan. Now that the early recovery phase has begun, WFP has initiated its early recovery program, FFA-Non-CBT project via its CP, BEST-Pak to support the vulnerable community, with the objective of enhancing resilience, ensuring food security, and creating assets that contribute to the sustainability of their livelihoods via cash-based transfers.

Introduction

BEST-Pak, in collaboration with UN-WFP, implemented the Conditional Cash Assistance FFA-CBT Livelihood Development Project in District D.I. Khan to address the immediate food needs of disaster-affected communities. The project focused on enhancing disaster resilience, building community capacity, developing infrastructure, improving livelihood opportunities, and fostering overall development. After the initial phase, the project was extended for an additional 4.5 months under a non-CBT approach, where community members volunteered their services. During this extension, seven mud protection walls and eight culverts were constructed to mitigate flood risks and improve water management.

To support long-term sustainability, 20,100 Conocarpus plants were planted along the protection walls. One water pond and one flood harvesting structure were also built to ensure water availability for drinking and irrigation.

To empower women, 42 previously trained participants were selected for enterprise development activities. They received three days of SBMT training and complete toolkits for trades such as tailoring, embroidery, crochet, and beautician services. Additionally, 21 women received advanced skills training through the Business Skill Development Center for Women in D.I. Khan. After completing their training, they visited Islamabad for market exposure and received full toolkits. The previously formed seven village committees were transformed into Village Disaster Risk Management Committees (VDRMCs), comprising 100 men and 75 women. These committees underwent five days of training in emergency preparedness and response, including search and rescue, first aid, early warning, firefighting, and CPR, and were equipped with search and rescue and first aid kits.

To ensure safe evacuation during floods, seven multipurpose raised platforms were constructed, along with seven flood-resilient model houses in the target villages. Community awareness activities on disaster risk management and climate change included awareness walks, sessions, and distribution of banners, posters, and pamphlets.

To strengthen the district's early warning system, two Automatic Weather Stations were installed in consultation with the Meteorological Department—one at the MET Office and another at the Agriculture Extension Department in Paharpur. Follow-up assessments were carried out with the 28 previous and 63 newly included IGA beneficiaries to monitor their progress, income changes, customer reach, and any challenges encountered.

Target Area of the Project

The target areas of the project were three tehsils of District Dera Ismail Khan:

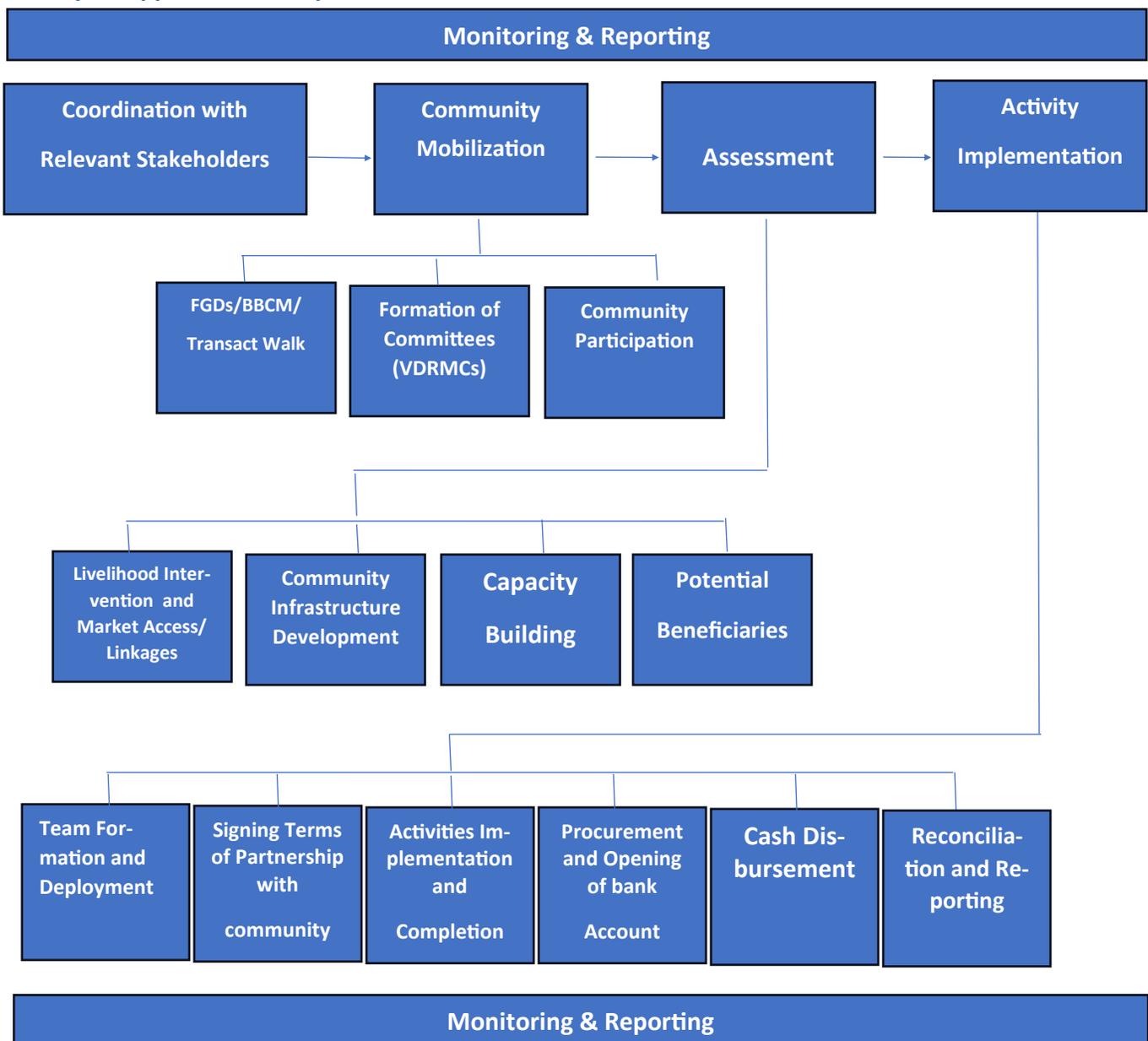
- Tehsil Prova
- Tehsil Dera Ismail Khan
- Tehsil Paharpur

Project Objectives

The project had the following major objectives:

- To enhance community resilience through the rehabilitation of livelihood assets and capacity building for improved livelihoods.
- To empower women by promoting skill development among females.
- To strengthen the resilience of local communities against future disasters.

The Project Approach and Implementation



Progress Achieved

During the reporting period, all planned activities were successfully implemented. These included structural works, capacity-building trainings, and enterprise development.

Structural Interventions:

Male participants contributed to constructing seven mud protection walls, eight RCC culverts, one water pond, one flood harvesting structure, seven raised multipurpose platforms, seven flood-resilient model shelters, and installing two automatic weather stations. To enhance sustainability, 20,100 Conocarpus plants were planted along the protection walls.

Women's Empowerment and Enterprise Development:

A total of 133 women participated in enterprise development, advanced skill training, and emergency preparedness.

- **Enterprise Development:** 42 women previously trained under the FFA-CBT project received three days of SBMT training and toolkits for trades such as tailoring, embroidery, crochet, and beautician services.
- **Advanced Skills Training:** 21 women received advanced training from the Business Skill Development Center in DI Khan, followed by an exposure visit to Islamabad and full toolkits.

Emergency Preparedness:

Seven existing village committees were upgraded to Village Disaster Risk Management Committees (VDRMCs). A total of 175 members (100 males, 75 females) received five days of training in search and rescue, first aid, early warning, firefighting, and CPR. Each committee received search and rescue and first aid kits.

Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure:



Assistant Commissioner DI Khan addresses during ERK Distribution ceremony /BEST-Pak

Seven raised platforms and seven flood-resilient shelters were constructed to serve as safe evacuation and housing options during emergencies.

Community Awareness:

Awareness activities, including walks and sessions on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and climate change, were held. Banners, posters, and pamphlets were distributed to inform both target communities and the general public.

Early Warning System Enhancement:

Two Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) were installed in collaboration with the DI Khan Meteorological Department—one at the MET Office and another at the Agriculture Extension Department in Paharpur.

Monitoring and Follow-Up:

Follow-ups were conducted with 28 previous and 63 new IGA beneficiaries to assess progress, income changes, customer reach, and encountered challenges.

Detail of Total Output

Major Activities	Unit of Measure	Total Units Achieved	Participants	
			Male	Female
Construction of Mud Protection Walls	No	7	0	0
Construction of RCC Pipe Culverts	No	8	0	0
Construction of Flood Harvesting Structure	No	1	0	0
Construction of Water Pond	No	1	0	0
Construction of Multipurpose raised platforms	No	7	0	0
Construction of Flood Resilient Model Houses/Shelters	No	7	0	0
Advanced Skill Training and Toolkits Distribution	No	1	0	21
EPR Trainings	No	4	100	75
Enterprise Development and Toolkits & Supplies Distribution	No	42	0	42
EPR Training and Kits Distribution	No	7	0	0
Installation of Automatic Weather Stations	No	2	0	0

Anticipatory Action Planning Project

Dera Ismail Khan



Project Name	Anticipatory Action Project Dera Ismail Khan
Modality	Research Oriented
Project Donor	United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP)
Target Areas	05 prioritized union councils of District Dera Ismail Khan
Reporting Period	From October 18, 2024 to December 31, 2024

OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

For many years, humanitarians have argued for the need to respond to emergencies sooner, and in ways that can limit their devastating long-term impact on vulnerable populations. While the argument for acting early has long had intuitive appeal, in recent years, a growing consensus on the value of anticipatory humanitarian action has emerged in terms of effectiveness and efficiency. Today, more and more stakeholders in the humanitarian system agree that anticipatory action constitutes an important opportunity to act before the impact of a disaster fully unfolds. Furthermore, given the increased availability of advanced risk assessment and forecasting mechanisms there is agreement on the need to scale up anticipatory, forecast-based, and risk-informed interventions wherever it is possible.

There has been an increase in the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme weather events, economic hardships, and human-induced hazards with devastating impacts on lives, livelihoods, and food security.

Realizing this fact, BEST-Pak partnered with WFP to implement an initiative of Anticipatory Action Planning in the five selected union councils of district Dera Ismail Khan in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. These union councils were highly prone to riverine floods from the river Indus. This initiative is designed to strengthen preparedness and resilience, reducing the adverse impacts of riverine flooding in these highly vulnerable areas. The project aims to develop AAP and set scientifically proven triggers and thresholds. Conclusively, the project effectively achieved the set targets in the form of tested anticipatory action protocols.

Project Target Area

Based on multiple indicators including previous history of riverine flooding and its impacts, proximity of the area with river Indus, topography, elevation and WFP feasibility study five most vulnerable union councils in district DI Khan. These UCs include Malana, Miran, Dhap Shumali, Mahra & Mandra and are located along the Indus River. The total riverine flood prone population of these UCs is 115,530 covering 19,015 households including 17972 male headed Households and 1043 female headed households.

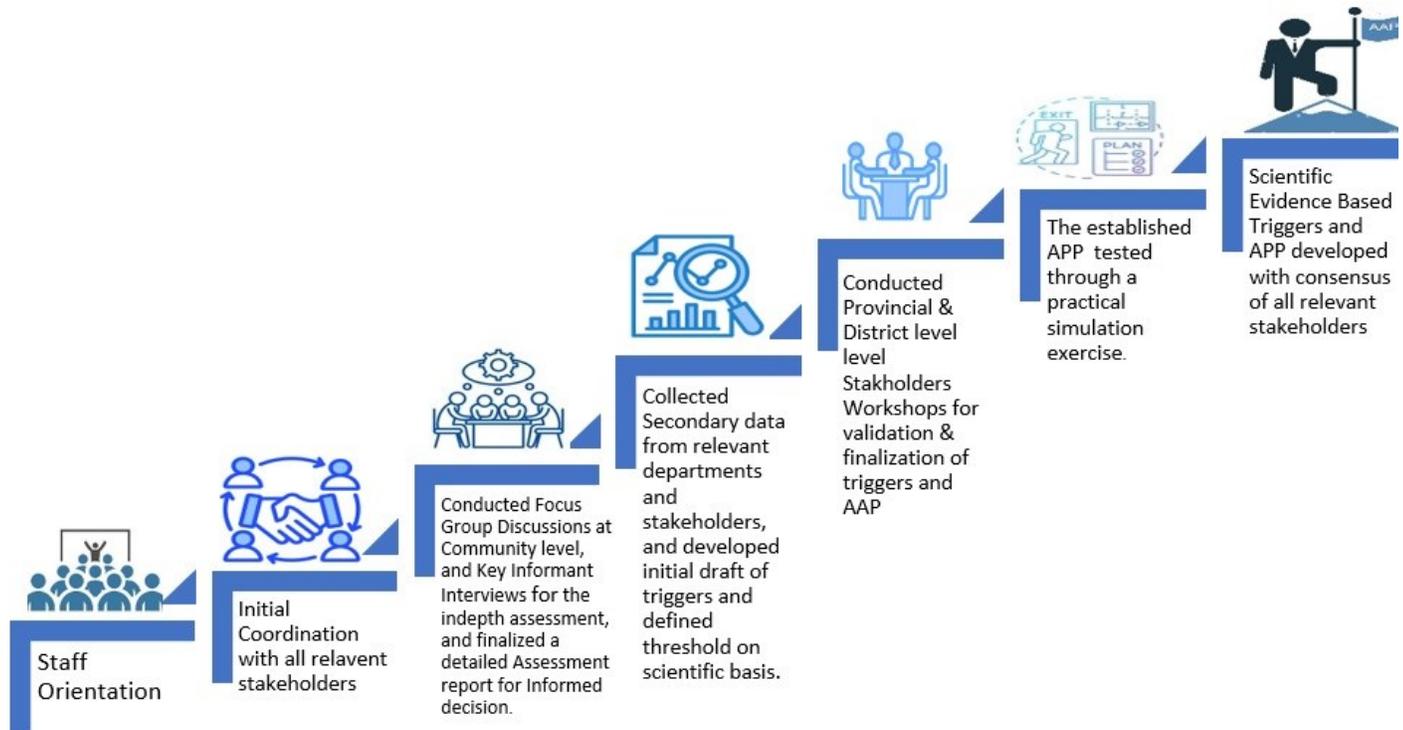
S.No.	Tehsil	Union Councils (UCs)	No of Villages	Total HHs	Population
1	Paharpur	Dhap Shumali	6	3200	20,800
2	Dera Ismail Khan	Mandra	9	6349	41,267
3	Parvoa	Marha	11	3473	22,577
4		Miran	20	3303	21,471
5		Malana	8	1449	9,415
Total			54	19015	115,530

Project Objectives

The project aimed to achieve the following key deliverables:

- A detailed risk assessment of the five target Union Councils conducted by engaging the community through focus group discussions and gathering insights from key informants via semi-structured interviews.
- Triggers and thresholds for the Anticipatory Action (AAs) developed in the context of riverine flooding in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.
- Anticipatory Action Protocols (AAPs) developed for riverine flooding.
- Triggers and AAPs validated in two workshops involving key stakeholders.
- Validated AAPs tested through simulations designed to reflect real-life scenarios.

PROJECT APPROACH & ITS IMPLEMENTATION



Achievement of the Project

The project has successfully achieved all its set deliverables and objectives. The following are the key accomplishments:

Comprehensive Risk Assessment:

An in-depth assessment was conducted by actively involving the target community through focus group discussions and key stakeholder interviews. This process resulted in a comprehensive report that provided a solid foundation for informed decision-making in finalizing the Anticipatory Action Protocols (AAP) for the target area.

Stakeholder Engagement & Consensus Building:

The project effectively engaged key stakeholders, including the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), District Administration, Line Departments, Pakistan Meteorological Department, Provincial Irrigation Department, Flood Forecasting Division, Academia, and the target community. As a result, a well-informed, evidence-based AAP was developed, with mutually agreed-upon triggers and thresholds.

Validation Workshops at District & Provincial Levels:

The project successfully conducted APP validation workshops at both the district and provincial levels. All relevant stakehold-

ers actively participated, contributing to the refinement and finalization of the protocols through a consensus-driven approach.

Simulation Exercise for APP Testing:

The validated APPs and triggers were rigorously tested through a real-life scenario-based simulation exercise. The process was closely monitored and assessed, yielding valuable recommendations to address potential gaps and improve the effectiveness of anticipatory actions.

Development of a Comprehensive APP Document:

A well-structured and detailed document on "Anticipatory Action Protocols" was developed, outlining all aspects of the initiative based on scientific evidence and best practices.

Project Completion Report & Future Roadmap:

A comprehensive project completion report was compiled, detailing all activities, achievements, and lessons learned. Additionally, the report provided concrete recommendations and a strategic roadmap for effectively implementing the established APPs in the target area.



Group Photo of the Project beneficiaries after completion of work— Non-CBT DI Khan/BEST-

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