

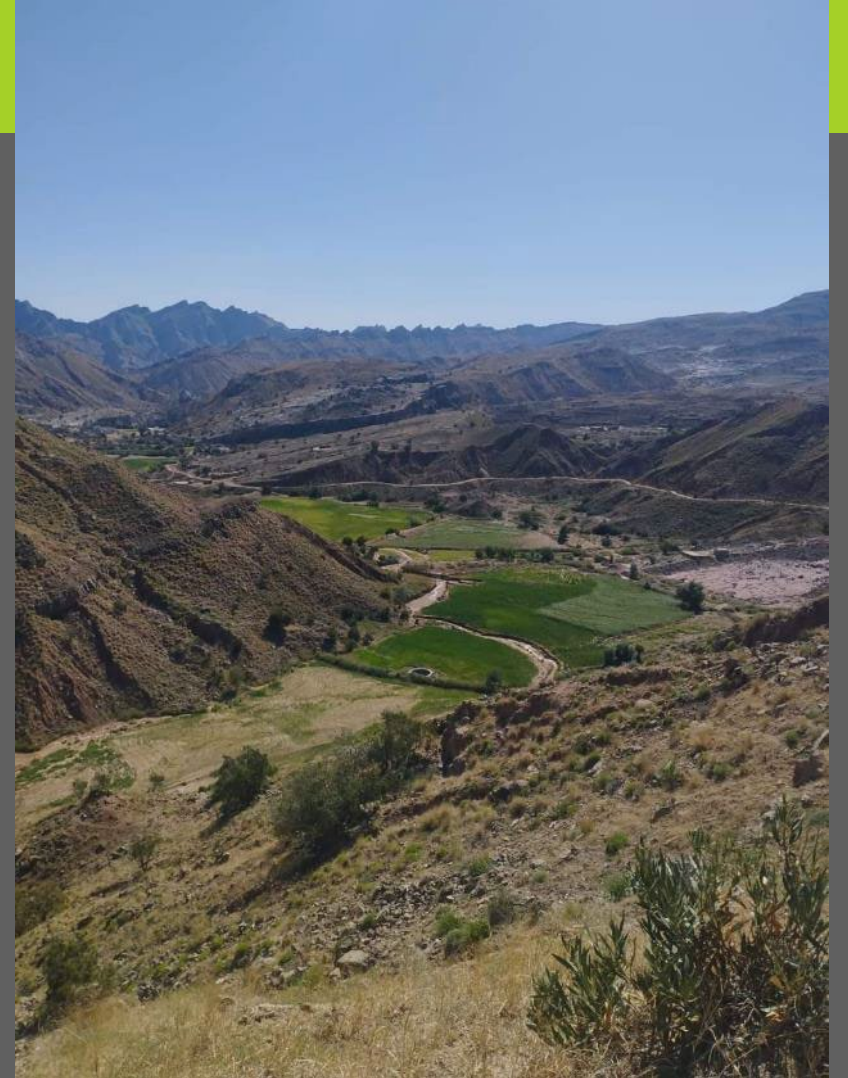
# NEWARBI END OF PROJECT MEETING

FDW17093PK - RVO

20 June 2025

# OVERVIEW

- General Updates
- Activities WP<sub>2</sub>
- Activities WP<sub>3</sub>
- Activities WP<sub>4</sub>
- Lessons Learned
- Recommendations



# GENERAL UPDATES

- Administrative Changes in RDF
  - Masood Mahesar, New Executive Director
- Flooding in Sindh – flash floods during monsoon 2024
- Link with RVO DRRS project – stakeholder dialogues, Horizontal Learning and Spatial Planning (Ashfaqe)
- Link with EU Low Water Economy Program (FAO) in Balochistan-Capacity Development Services
- Security in Balochistan



# ACTIVITIES WORK PACKAGE 2

## Bhag Narri - SPO

- Works in Upper Narri
  - Completed the Bala Nari rehabilitation work
- Flow divider – Govt of Balochistan
  - New plan developed and funding secured
- Joint meeting with JMC and channel committees planned for coming month



# ACTIVITIES WORK PACKAGE 2

## Nai Gaj - RDF

- Construction of the embankment in Bahawal Jo Ghanda, partial project contribution.
  - Cost about 5 million PKR
  - Fuel support (second time). 300,000 PKR. Total 2.5 million
  - Project supported for the main bund
  - Local bunds are responsibility of farmers
  - Supporting 20.000 acres, 40 villages
- Seminar on Spate Irrigation in Dadu together with SIDA
- Case studies with farmers



# ACTIVITIES WORK PACKAGE 3

## Bhag Narri (SPO)

- Established earthen water ponds in five villages
- Conducted an exposure visit to our project area in Sindh
- Organized a visit to Multan University with farmers and attended a seminar on spate irrigation arranged by the university.
- Farmers visited the seed market, and one farmer procured 1,000 kg of chickpeas for the coming season.
- Exchange of livestock and seeds with Nai Gaj
- Distribution of grain storage options
  - Closed bags, durable and reducing harvest losses
- Finalizing documentary in livelihood opportunities



# ACTIVITIES WORK PACKAGE 3

## Nai Gaj (RDF)

- Several trainings and information sessions:
  - Pickle Making for women, as income (2 events)
  - Livestock exchange with Bhag
  - Poultry Training (2 events)
- Exchange visit to Dadu, by Bhag farmers
  - Solar water scheme
  - Meeting with farmer organization
  - Model farmers shed
  - Pickle making practices
  - Chickpeas Seeds exchange with Bhag.
  - 30 farmers using it
- 4 solar Water system (Talbani lund, Chidi, Shafi lund, Ghulam M. Bhurgri. Tubwells used for vegetable cultivation, humans and livestock drinking purposes
- Bhag cattle breed Introduction in Nai Gaj area.



Samsung Quad Camera  
Shot with my Galaxy A21s



Visit to Multan University



Livestock from Bhag



Group picture in Dadu



Shed for farmers

# ACTIVITIES WORK PACKAGE 4

- Arranged a dialogue on flood management in Quetta, which was also attended by Dr. Frank
- Met with PDMA officials and discussed various activities
- Continued involvement in ADB, FAO and WorldBank programs (Allah Bakhsh, Frank and Karim)
  - Continue assignment in Afghanistan and Pakistan on Investment Opportunities.
  - EU Funded RBWRP-FAO- Capacity Building Services for four green line departments + PDMA Balochistan
  - Taking the learning up through Training and learning Manuals under CDS
  - Taking the Learning Up through horizontal learning forums –Rangelands Conservation, Productivity Enhancement, Watershed management, Better Livestock management , DRR at village level





In and outflow structures



Overflow structure through:  
ADB Emergency Support Program



Closing workshop  
FAO Investment Guide



Meetings for DRRS initiatives

# ACTIVITIES WORK PACKAGE 4 (CONT'D)

- Preparing additional Practical Notes on past experiences.
  - Jujube Crop Management
  - Shallow wells
  - Hermeneutic bags (storage options)
  - Earthen seed/grain storages
  - Farmers network is functional , repairing bunds. Pre-Monsoon arrangements. Better planning
- Sharing experiences on
  - Specific Spate platforms/groups in Pakistan and Farmer Network whatsapp groups
  - Blogs on TheWaterChannel
- Meetings with relevant stakeholders to share progress in the project



# LESSONS LEARNED

- Farmers unity and collective actions
  - Through their representative Farmer Network led to timely, self-driven initiatives, such as like embankment strengthening/re-making, engaging with authorities, and managing flood runoff.
  - This demonstrates the the value of community-led resilience efforts, though at community level. They also resolved some social issues, like education, livestock vaccination through better coordination.
- Small scale solar pumping systems have proven highly effective
  - Addressing the drinking water needs of both humans and livestock in water-stressed communities, while also enabling small-scale vegetable cultivation. It is enhancing both the domestic water security and local food production
- The community matching grant has been highly effective approach
  - For mobilizing farmers to invest in their own development, enabling better use of short-term floodwaters for improved productivity, enhanced community resilience and well-being, as well as to reduce risks to lives and assets.
- Exposure visits and joint farmer sittings proved to be effective tools
  - For sharing good practices, leading to the exchange of high-value crop seeds and improved livestock breeds among farmers
- Women's participation in program activities was quite inspirational
  - Particularly in livestock, poultry and water for domestic uses. Some of the women are now using pickle making for nutritional purposes too, as the area is not easier connected to market.

# RECOMMENDATIONS (1)

- Kacchi Plain is a huge productive areas
  - Around 150,000 ha - a very significant part of the Baluchistan's agricultural resource base. It is a main producer of sorghum, oil seeds and pulses. This potential can better be harnessed through market driven programs
- Particularly for Sindh, the government should develop an investment framework
  - That recognizes the strategic value of spate systems for climate resilience and rural livelihoods—allocating public resources regardless of tax revenue (Abyana) generation, and integrating these areas into provincial water, agriculture, and disaster risk reduction planning
- Institutionalize community-led knowledge exchange platforms
  - As a formal component of local agricultural and disaster resilience policies.
- Promotion of the adoption of locally proven practices
  - Climate-resilient agricultural and livestock practices at wider scale to better manage livelihood stresses in spate irrigated areas

# RECOMMENDATIONS (2)

- Creation of Organic Crops of spate irrigated areas
  - Market at national and provincial level through through policy support, farmer cooperatives, and engaging the business community, traders, and parliamentarians
- Future projects should invest in strengthening and institutionalizing community-based networks
  - Like Farmer Networks, as they serve as effective platforms for self-initiated action, peer learning, and sustained engagement with local authorities on resilience and resource management
- To build on local knowledge and promote economic resilience
  - Through technical skills training on home-based product development—such as using local shrubs and raw materials to make herbal products, or handicrafts—especially targeting women and youth for enhanced livelihood opportunities.

# DISCUSSION AND SHARING

- What are your (personal) highlights during the project?
- What lesson have you learned?
  - Or what went wrong in terms of implementation and would you do different a next time?
- How do you look back on the cooperation between the project partners, including RVO?
  - This could include advice to RVO on how the fund was set-up
- What work, with regards to Spate Irrigation, is remaining for both project areas?
- How has the project enriched you as a person?

