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Pathways to Prosperity

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Tomatoes' top yield

Subsequent to the displacement, households depending on agricultural activities for the livelihood lost their lands, farms and cattle. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is helping them restore their livelihoods after their return. FAO under UN's Naway Wraz Programme, supported by UKAid, is supporting fruit and vegetable enterprise development to help the farmers and producers and to rehabilitate agro-economy in the area.

Dedication, determination and hard work are the traits of a farmer like Tajir of Shublan, a village in Kurram, a newly merged district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Tajir heads a family of thirteen and wins bread for them.

Farming is his ancestral occupation and he cultivates various crops on his small chunk of land. In a bid to rebuild his livelihood, Tajir experimented with harvesting tomatoes, however, the seeds he sowed were affected by a hail storm at the germination stage. He lost his crop on which his family's survival depends. Tajir did not have means to buy more seeds as these were expensive.



Under Naway Wraz Programme, FAO provide seeds and training to poor farmers to help them improve their yields. Tajir was among the selected farmers for the enterprise development of tomato crop programme. Tajir received high quality hybrid Syngenta T1359 seeds and expert training on the use of modern agriculture technology in fertilizing, pruning and watering the crops through Farmers Field School sessions. He was also trained on vertical farming and germination of high yield hybrid seeds.

Tajir cultivated one acre of land with the high- quality hybrid seeds using the techniques he learned at the farmers school. He is harvesting almost sixty boxes of tomatoes every other day and selling these to Kohat fruit and vegetable market as these are good quality marketable tomatoes. Tajir has now become a top tomato producer in the area.

"FAO provided me with Syngenta Sahil variety of tomato hybrid seed for sowing. My dampen hopes came to life again and I started working hard on my one acre land. Now I have produced a hefty yield of tomatoes. I learnt vertical farming in which high above-ground vines allow increased airflow that helps in keeping the plants dry which is important to prevent 'mildew and blight.' It also helps in harvesting and picking as bright red tomatoes are easy to find on high plants."

says Tajir, the tomato farmer.



Feedlot Fattening units

Ninety-seven percent of the 5 million people living in newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa rely on agriculture. Livestock raising is one of the major farming activities providing livelihoods to farmers. Displacement after conflict caused losses of livestock to farmers and herders.

FAO under UN's Naway Wraz Programme, supported by UKAid, assisted herders and farmers to rebuild their livelihood immediately after their return to their home towns. The programme assisted 167 graziers with feedlot units for small and large ruminants in Kurram, Orakzai, North and South Waziristan. The farmers were also provided with breeding ramps, feedlot units and chopping machines.

Twenty-five years old Syed Hanifullah has been raising animals for selling purposes since his childhood. He kept looking after his herds and orchard in native Issori village, in North Waziristan. His association with livestock raising led him into a small scale cattle business in Mirali bazaar. However, as an unskilled animal trader- Hanifullah did not know how to plan for feeding animals for faster growth thus there was a high likelihood of loss in the business until he was selected as a beneficiary through village committee for feedlot units initiative by FAO. FAO provided him with 10 animals, feedlot units, 50 bags of feed and one chopping machine. He kept feedlot fattening all the ten animals for 4 months and sold first lot in the local market earning a profit ten times higher than his spending of PKR 60,000.



"Raising animals is my ancestral profession, however, I had no idea how to best feed animals with a plan for good growth in order to maximize profit. After I received training on how to plan feeding the animals, I did better in my business. The FAO initiative of supporting feedlot fattening of livestock allows raising more cattle with less land-usage. This is helping herders like me to produce meat in more economical way. I will increase the number of my animals to grow my livestock business."

says Hanifullah, the herder.

Hanifullah, who supports a family of eight, is passionate to continue his business with increased number of animals and feedlot that fattens them.

A sustainable growth of agri-businesses, cattle trading and livestock production is key to the betterment of livelihoods in the tribal areas where COVID-19 has added to the disruptions caused by displacement. FAO continues to help livestock farmers and herdsman adopt modern techniques so they can better raise their herds and trade them in the markets.



The gold crop

Wheat is staple crop harvested in NMDs along with other major grains crops. However, due to old farming techniques and low quality seeds, yields are low. Thus there are great prospects for improving wheat production through agronomic approach in the area which will tremendously benefit farmers and food growers whose incomes and assets were jeopardized during displacement. Under UN's Naway Wraz Programme, supported by UKAid, FAO is introducing 'climate resilient crop seeds' and promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices in the target areas to improve yields and livelihoods of farmers. So, far climate-resilient wheat seeds have been provided to 8,000 households. Each farmer family received fifty KGs of certified seeds. Four hundred and ten of these households are headed by women.

Gul Amin, a hardworking farmer from Shin Warsak, South Waziristan, is very happy with his wheat yield this season as the production has increased twofold. The reason is the 'climate resilient seeds' that he used for the first time. This has motivated Gul Amin's interest in growing crops, orchards, and rearing animals. After his training, the knowledge and seeds bore fruits, Gul the progressive grower is now keeping in touch with agriculture extension workers to learn more about agro-technology for his crops while always lending a helping hand to his fellow farmers. He ploughs a couple of acres of irrigated land to grow Rabi and Kharif crops. Low-quality uncertified seeds never gave him more than average production and was never enough to improve his income. Previous season, he registered himself for FAO's support to farmers with 'climate resilient crops seeds' initiative. Along with the training on integrated pest management and integrated soil nutrient management through the cultivation process of wheat, he received 50 Kgs of certified climate resilient seeds as well. After six-months of dedication with right farming techniques, his wheat crop yielded 3-4 additional bags for each seed bag.

"I didn't know I could produce this much from the same land just with improved seed quality, pest and soil management. Thanks to FAO for introducing 'climate resilient crops seeds' for farmers like me who earn from the agricultural produce."

says Gul Amin, the wheat farmer.



Picking Potatoes

Kurram, one of newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is home to more than six hundred thousand people who depend on agriculture for making both ends meet. FAO under UN's Naway Wraz Programme, supported by UKAid, launched agriculture restoration activities after displaced communities returned to their houses.

The programme through a range of interventions, is assisting 42,000 households to restore and rebuild their livelihoods ensuring food security and development of agri-businesses. Value chain development (VCD) is adopted to support farmers establish and run their own fruit and vegetable enterprises.

Gul Akbar, sole bread winner of a family of seven is a potato grower in Shalozan, Kurram district. He used to harvest local seed varieties which often led to low production. Despite working hard in his fields, he would always end up with limited income. However, a farmer never gives up on his land. Gul was hopeful and his hopes were realized when this season FAO selected him for the programme of potatoes seed support.



He received 10 bags of 'Batta Kundi' seed variety best suited for Kurram soil. FAO further supported him with fertilizer and provided training on sowing these seeds. Gul cultivated his three acres of land with the high-quality potato seeds in March 2020, and after four months of dedication and hardwork, he harvested and sold his produce in the market. His earnings almost doubled with more quantity and better quality of potatoes.

Fifty-two year old Gul is very happy to receive the increased yield from his land. He is excited for further training on sowing, watering and soil management in Farmers Field School sessions before next season.

"I have been growing potatoes for years, however I never had as much production. I am surprised that the same field and water has given 10 bags of produce per seed bag. I never harvested more than 7 bags earlier. I am thankful to FAO team, they provided me with high-quality seeds and fertilizers, my potatoes are selling good. I will build my agriculture business and will register with farmer school for training on sowing before next season starts. I hope FAO will continue to support us farmers who are unaware that with a little change in producing methods and seed quality, we can have high yield and better price."

says Gul Amin, the potato grower.



**42,000 households
received agricultural
support to
rebuild livelihoods**



Back to school

A decade ago, when conflict rampaged the region, many schools and other buildings were destroyed. Rebuilding these schools has thus been a key component of UN's Naway Wraz Programme that focuses on rebuilding lives and livelihoods of the communities. At the far east of South Waziristan district, is a small village, Nazari Nar where the only learning facility for girls- Government Girls Primary School was completely destroyed in a bid to rescind ambitions of the children, however, nothing could bring down these brave communities. With the resolve of the communities and support of UKAid and UN, the school was rebuilt. UNICEF, as part of UN's Naway Wraz Programme, delivered hope, built a prefabricated school structure and brought children back to the school.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Department of Education, GoKP conducted needs assessments and held meetings with community elders in which the need to build a school was brought up. Following this, a field team consisting of a field Program Manager, District Coordinator, field engineer and officers was formed for the installation of a prefabricated school structure.

UNICEF, under UN's Naway Wraz Programme, established Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) to ensure ownership and responsibility of the community to manage schools effectively, as well as the accountability of the schools towards the community. A PTC also serves as an entry point, in addition to the District Education Office, for UNICEF to introduce interventions in any school. In Nazari Nar, with a sense of ownership & accountability, PTC members observed the progress of the installation of the prefab structure and would timely report any discrepancy observed in the structure for immediate resolve.



The new prefab is serving as a temporary safe structure for children to receive education, while the Government has already channeled funds for a permanent school building in the same area soon. A boundary wall surrounding the prefabricated school ensures the children's safety and protection. Parents no longer worry about their children's security while they are at school.

With the installation of the prefab, the enrollment of children went from 15 to over 120 children, majority of which are girls aged 5 - 12 years who had either never been to school or had dropped out. As part of the package, UNICEF also provided furniture and other essential supplies including SIBs, school bags and stationery to the school. Children's excitement and joy along with their interest in installation process is remarkable.

Director Elementary and Secondary Education (E&SE) KP - Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim said *"The directorate of E&SE appreciates the financial and technical assistance from UNICEF for a conducive and safe learning environment provided to children. UNICEF is playing a pivotal role towards improved access to quality education for every child - which is highly commendable."*

The PTC members appreciated the installation of the prefabricated school and committed to taking care of its maintenance and management. In the meanwhile, as the schools are closed due to lockdown owing to the COVID-19 situation, UNICEF has extended support in providing "COVID-19 Prevention and Precaution" messages to the teachers and PTC members of the school, who are subsequently passing it on to the children, and their families. Digitized Learning Content has also been shared with the teachers via WhatsApp to help students who have access to internet, access the learning content and stay connected.

Under the UKAid's supported Naway Wraz Programme, UNICEF has established 11 prefabricated schools in the merged districts. UNICEF supports the government's efforts to bring children back to school and provide them with safety and protection and restore a sense of normalcy for children in the newly merged districts.

11 prefabricated schools set up in merged districts





Ensuring dignity and hygiene

In Orakzai district, open defecation is a normal practice due to the unavailability of proper sanitation facilities and lack of awareness. Not only does it perpetuate a vicious cycle of disease, but also exposes girls and women to the particular risk of gender-based violence.

In Khwaga Serri village of District Orakzai, only 33 percent families (15 out of 46 families) have access to and use latrines. Whereas, the remaining villagers would defecate openly in the corner or outside of their houses. Health of the community members especially children is impacted as diseases spread due to this unhygienic practice commonly prevalent in Khwaga Serri village.

After carrying out some assessments in Khwaga Serri, UNICEF and its partner Islamic Relief Pakistan (IRP) mobilized the community members to understand how defecating in the open posed health risks to the communities. The community members responded positively and mentioned that their children were regularly falling sick with diarrhoea and had to miss school due to that. Some people have pit latrines in their houses as they could not afford to install a proper flush latrine.

Under UN's Naway Wraz Programme, with UKAid's support, UNICEF is supporting the government of KP in upscaling and improving sanitation to benefit the rural communities in the newly merged districts. With a pragmatic approach to the problem, UNICEF focuses on the behavioural change of the communities along with providing clean water and sanitation facilities such as latrine with the help of WASH committees, CRPs and hygiene promoters. In village Khwaga Serri, UNICEF conducted sessions on awareness of water, sanitation and hygienic practices at schools, community and with religious leaders. The team went door to door to bring the villagers together to attend the sessions to adopt healthy practices in their life.



Khaista Jana, a 35-year-old woman, lives with her seven children in a small mud house in the village Khwaga Serri. Her husband, Usman, also built a pit latrine before he passed away a few months ago. Khaista, now a young widow, took forward her husband's wish to build a latrine in the house. "Usman, my late husband was selected as Community Resource Person to help stop open defecation practice. It is bad for the children of the community" says a teary-eyed Khaista Jana.

Khaista Jana and other women, being primary caretakers of young children and household hygiene, collectively participated in sessions in which steps to improve hygiene were explained that the community could adopt at home, such as sweeping, washing hands, garbage disposal and cleaning dishes properly. "Before the sessions, we, as a community, did not know about the harmful effects of open defecation on our health. Since my children keep falling ill, now I realize what was wrong. Now I am aware, I know the importance of good personal and household hygiene" says Khaista Jana.

UNICEF provided Khaista Jana and all other poor families of Khwaga Serri village with low-cost latrine kits for which they are grateful. After this intervention, Khwaga Serri village is totally Open Defecation Free (ODF). The latrine facility provided to the families along with awareness on sanitation practices has stimulated a change process at the household and community level. Khaista Jana, told the field team "I am glad to have this latrine - my family and I do not go out or use a pit to defecate. We now wash our hands properly. It is really good to live in a faecal-free environment"

For the sustainability of the ODF status at Khwaga Serri village, UNICEF is providing technical guidance to master trainers and motivators of the village to monitor and preserve the transformed behaviours of the people.

Health care services at the doorstep



Absence or inadequacy of health care facilities can cost a life. An increased mortality rate in the newly merged districts a few years earlier indicated that health facilities are scarce and vulnerable families could not access health care. UN's Naway Wraz programme, supported by UKAid, provides basic health services in the NMDs and reaches out to disadvantaged communities and people living in hard to reach reach/high risk areas with quality healthcare services at the doorstep.

Under the Naway Wraz Programme, 30 mobile teams are reaching out to communities with basic health services in the catchment population of 15 health facilities in the five newly merged districts. These mobile teams attend to the most disadvantaged mothers and children at their doorstep. The integrated health interventions include Mother and Child Days (MCDs) and EPI services in spots/camps identified by the communities themselves. As a result, the communities exhibit interest and ownership towards the program. In addition, Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Services are provided 24/7 at health facilities supported by the programme. These services benefit pregnant women, mothers and children under five years of age.

In Ashiq Khel Khuga Khel village of Landi Kotal, lives 29-year-old Nodia Bibi with her husband who is an unskilled laborer. Landi Kotal, a far-flung area of district Khyber, has a population of more than 400,000 people, yet, there is only one health facility in the region i.e. DHQ Hospital Landi Kotal. Under Naway Wraz programme, infrastructure, staff and equipment support has been provided to the DHQ which caters to the health needs of the population of Landi Kotal and the adjacent union councils. On an average, around 500 patients including men, women and children are being treated every day at DHQ Landi Kotal.

During the visit of UNICEF's registration team to collect data of the pregnant women in the region, Nodia Bibi was registered. The next day, a Service Provision Team including a lady health visitor named Salma visited the same village to provide services to pregnant mothers and children. Therein, Salma learnt that Nodia bibi was in her third trimester of pregnancy and counselled her for a safe delivery at the hospital. Salma handed over a clean delivery kit and newborn kit to Nodia Bibi after explaining the use of the two kits. Nodia Bibi appreciated the the efforts of the health team but was not sure about delivering her baby at a hospital as delivering at home is a common practice in the area.



When Nodia's labour started she contacted Salma, who referred her to a labour room through the outreach team for her safe delivery. Nodia bibi's husband brought her to the DHQ Landi Kotal for delivery where she was taken care of by the trained labour room staff.

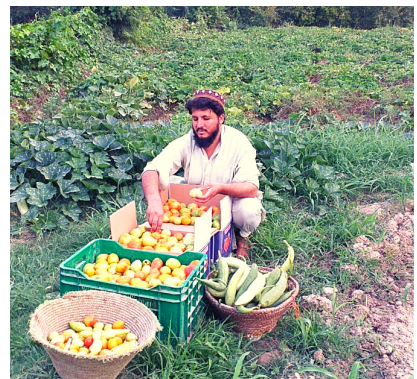
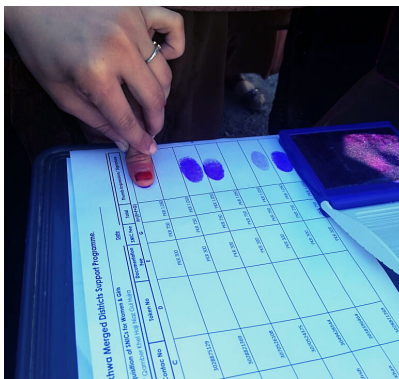
Nodia bibi delivered triplets, two boys and a girl. She was very happy after the delivery breastfed her babies as orientated by the health staff on the importance of breastfeeding, postnatal care visits and necessary check-ups, vaccination schedule, health hygiene and nutritional needs of the children.

Nodia bibi expressed satisfaction and gratitude for the safe and free delivery service which never existed in the community before. From her pregnancy till her delivery, she was taken care of and this makes her feel blessed. Her expressions reflected an excitement to share this with her family and fellow women villagers. She understands that she could undergo complications during the delivery of triplets therefore she is grateful for the counselling by lady health visitor which led her to make a decision to deliver at the hospital under supervision of a skilled birth attendant.

"Becoming a mother to three little babies has made me a different person and my triplets have brought a wave of happiness to my life" says Nodia Bibi while leaving the hospital.

Nodia Bibi vowed to share awareness message among other pregnant women of her village to take care of their health and definitely consider a hospital for delivery in safe hands of skilled birth attendant.

PHOTOS TELL STORIES



NAWAY WRAZ PROGRAMME IS WORKING TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NEWLY MERGED DISTRICTS

One CNIC, many benefits

Umraila Bibi, a 20-year old mother of a toddler Wafa Bibi, lives in the village of Mulagori Tehsil Jamrud of district Khyber. Her husband, Zair Shah, is a daily wager and has a meagre income of around PKR 3000 to 5000 rupees a month. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, Zair's income was reduced to nothing as labour work was put on halt. With no income, Umraila and Zair had no means to survive and feed their three-year old daughter. They resorted to borrowing from their relatives and villagers.

Umraila could work as a seamstress however could not spare time to sew clothes due to her household responsibilities including collecting firewood from the mountains. She always wanted to support her husband financially but she felt helpless. Moreover, Umraila did not have a Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) which was required to access any livelihood or loan support provided by the government. Under UN's Naway Wraz Programme, supported by UKAid, UN Women is helping women in NMDs acquire their CNICs. UN Women's team visited Umraila's village and met her during a door to door campaign. The team told Umraila that by acquiring a CNIC and by registering with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) she can be eligible for the Sada e Aman Program, Ehsaas Program, Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Pakistan Bait-ul- Mal, Baith Ul Mall Supported Women Skill Support Program and the Government of Pakistan's Zakat scheme. Umraila agreed to acquire a CNIC and considering her dire circumstances, UN Women team members expedited her application and followed-up on her registration process.





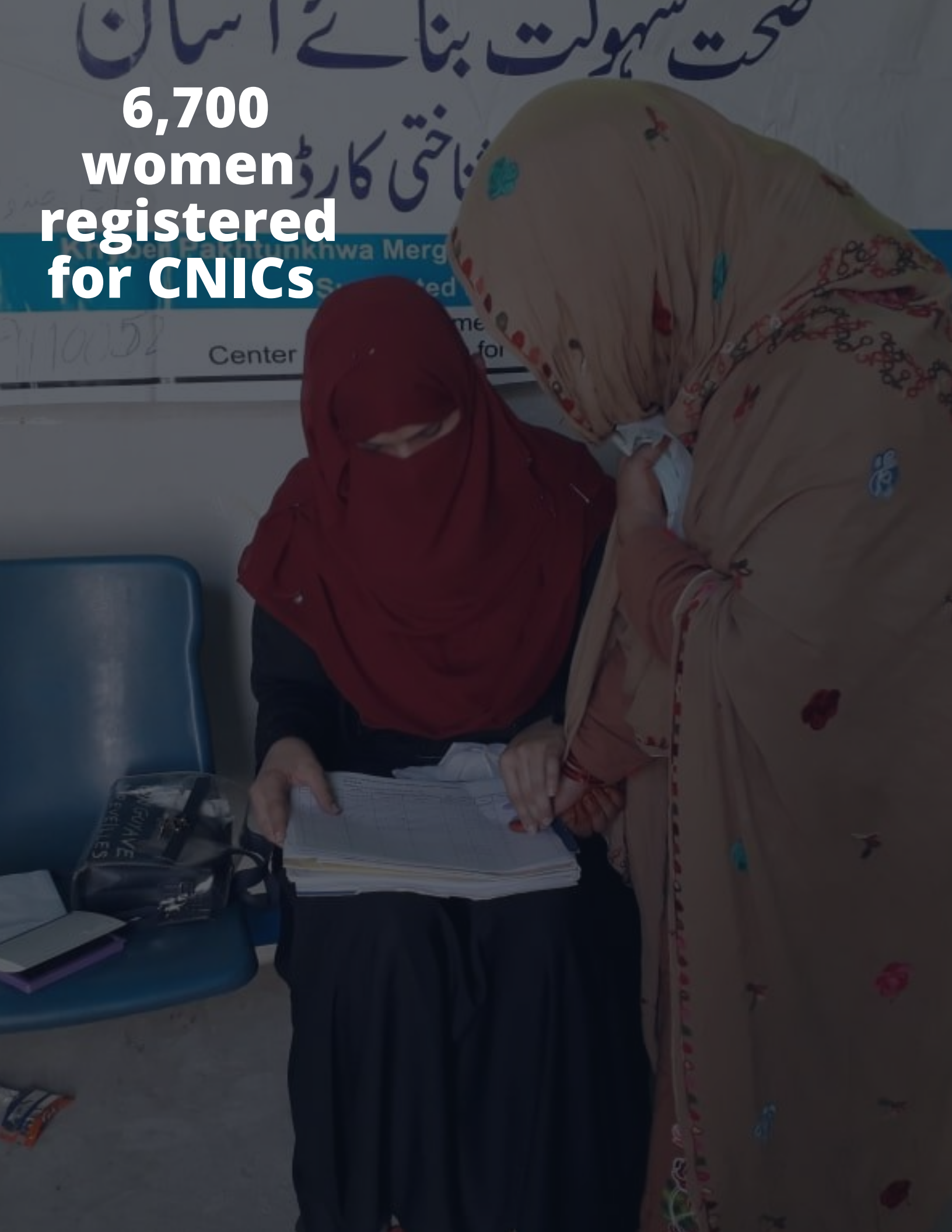
Once Umraila received her CNIC, she applied for Sada e Aman Card – the government’s social protection scheme in the area. Umraila was overjoyed to receive two installments of PKR 2,500 each with which she bought food for her family.

Along with Umraila, two more women Farmica Bibi and Gul Shada Bibi who were facilitated by UN Women in CNIC registration have applied for Sada E Aman Card and have received PKR 2,500 from the program.

“I am grateful to UN Women for helping many women like me with the CNIC registration and bringing this support to my door step. They also helped me in processing my other legal documents such as domicile and Nikkah Nama and for making it possible for us to get a CNIC. I am illiterate, my poor family do not care about CNICs and education but I will convince and support my villagers to get CNICs and will educate my children”.

says Umraila.

**6,700
women
registered
for CNICs**





Better late than never!

Bagh Marjan, a seventy five years old widow, lives with her younger son at Village Melo Sar ,Utman Khel, Sub section Branka Khel, Lower Orakzai. Her son is a daily wager and is often hand to mouth with his meagre income. Marjan was not registered with NADRA until UN Women's team, under UN's Naway Wraz programme, reached her. Bagh Marjan was unaware about the importance and utilization of national identity card. "I never gave a thought to register myself with NADRA" she said.

The team of the programme, which is supported by UKAid, visited her house and mobilized her about the importance of CNIC and the range of services she can access through this single document including Sehat Card, BISP, bait ul mall and other assistance she could access from the government as well as the NGOs working in the area.

"Who will take me to the NRC?" she asked, "how much will it cost?" she added. The team informed her that she will receive assistance from the programme for transportation cost and Smart Card registration fee. This information convinced her to register her for a CNIC. Her son resisted as he did not see any use of her CNIC. The team along with the community activists informed him about the importance of registration and being counted as a citizen in the national system. He agreed and accompanied his mother for her visit to NADRA center. Eleven more women of the same village who were identified and mobilized by project team joined them too. Bagh Marjan and other women received their CNICs. Bagh Marjan was further facilitated by the team to receive livestock support in form of two sheep from the livestock department Orakzai under livelihood support scheme for poor and widows. She was very happy. Smiling and thanking the team, Bagh Marjan expressed that every women should register herself with NADRA to get their basic rights and different kinds of support.

"I wish somebody told me earlier about the value of CNIC registration, God bless you" she expressed with joy.



Assistance arrives

Gul Zarina resides in Jaga Ghundai, a remote village of South Waziristan, with her nine children. Her husband Khan Saeed married another woman and thus Gul Zarina had to live in a small separate house with her children. She works as a house-help in neighboring houses to feed her children. Due to prolonged struggle and repeated pregnancies, Zarina is now suffering from obesity and joints-pain which makes it difficult for her to work. She resorted to borrowing and seeking help from relatives due to her deteriorated financial situation.

Under UN's Naway Wraz programme, supported by UKAid, UN Women field team identified Zarmina during their door to door assessment and profiled her. They mobilized her husband to give her legal documents to support processing her CNIC. She registered herself with NADRA where she also received CWG (Child Wellness Grant) for her little daughter. Under this grant, she received financial assistance along with hygiene kit and free immunization of her children. She considers it a great cushion and support during this critical time of her life.

In the adjacent district of Kurram lives Robina with her parents and seven siblings in village Sateen. Robina could not attain formal education in a school however wanted to pursue her dream of attending a madrassa (religious school) and becoming an Alima (religious teacher). Her family also supported her in this ambition. There prevails a general understanding among communities in NMDs that unmarried women do not need CNICs as they will have to redo the tiring process of registration after marriage. UN Women team visited her village and convinced her family to acquire a CNIC for her which will help her get admission in a madrassa. The parents agreed and convinced her opposing elder brother who was not ready to allow her to visit NADRA office. The programme provided registration fee and transport support for the registration visit. Robina received her CNIC and subsequently got admission in a madrassa in district Tal.

"The community here do not consider registering women for CNIC as a thing to do, especially before marriage. I now believe that every woman whether married or unmarried should register with NADRA." Robina emphasized.



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