



# DEVTALK

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
BY ISLAMIC RELIEF PAKISTAN  
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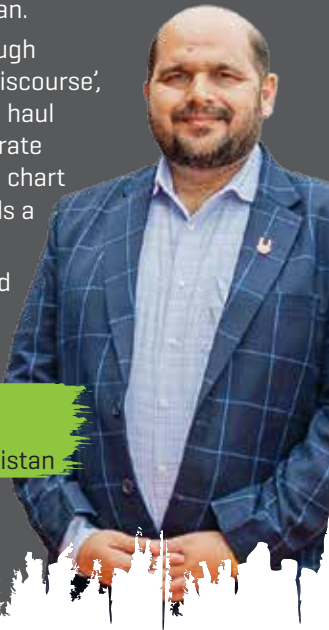
## FROM CD'S DESK

As Pakistan navigates through the toughest of times, Islamic Relief has been on the frontline with clear direction and a sound sense of purpose. As a humanitarian and development practitioner, I firmly believe that moving proactively and capitalizing on our shared knowledge is the key to impactful climate action.

IR Pakistan continues to partner strongly with donors, governments, media, academia and think tanks to help catalyze transformational change and increase resilience against disasters and calamities. Recovery and rehabilitation of flood affected communities carries on at a slow pace and 2024's monsoon is already upon us. We must identify locally tailored solutions to address the unique needs of Pakistan.

Join us, as through 'Development Discourse', we discuss long haul solutions, celebrate milestones, and chart a course towards a brighter future.

Welcome aboard and enjoy the read!



**Asif Sherazi**  
Country Director  
Islamic Relief Pakistan

## DADU, SINDH

# REBUILDING LIVES

Hafsa, born in 1991, lived in a small village called Goth Haji Ismail. She had seven daughters and one son. In 2009, at the age of 18, she got married. However, life wasn't easy for Hafsa and her family. The floods of 2022 took everything away from them.

Islamic Relief being one of the leading emergency responders after the floods didn't leave the communities in need but led the recovery and rehabilitation efforts in Sindh. For Hafsa's family and thousands others, we built new homes that is bringing comfort and joy.

Hafsa's husband was a Labourer at first. But later, their relatives helped them by opening a grocery store which made their life easier. Hafsa was very grateful to Allah for helping them through hard times.



“  
Having a home is truly a blessing, and no matter how many times we thank Allah, it always feels like it's not enough. We had to wait for the night just to use the bathroom. Times were tough, but those difficult times are now behind us.”

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DI KHAN, KP

# NARROWING GAPS

Islamic Relief is easing the lives of communities in DI Khan where poverty has been multiplied by the floods of 2022. Muhammad Imran, being a physically challenged person lost all hope when water destroyed every valuable he ever owned. Islamic Relief is carrying out recovery and rehabilitation efforts in different parts of the area including Imran's village.

Islamic Relief has supported and empowered the local communities with the distribution of solar kits.

“It's a gift of light and energy. My family has suffered a lot after the floods and we are still struggling to overcome the challenges. Islamic Relief has given me hope for a better life ahead.”



KHYBER, KP

# MAKING GREEN TRANSITION

Zaheena Bibi, a woman of strength and perseverance, narrates her story with a mixture of pride and determination. "I wake up early morning, attending to household chores before the sun rises." Her voice carries the weight of responsibility, "After preparing breakfast for my family, I tend to my small shop and nurture my kitchen garden until noon," she continues,



her hands mimicking the care she gives her plants.

“I was hopeless and much stressed with no support from my family and the sole breadwinner, I had sleepless nights due to no savings and relying each day on my small shop.”

Reflecting on the past, Zaheena's voice gains strength.

“The Kitchen Garden toolbox by Islamic Relief Pakistan changed everything. As now we have more than just enough to get by, I have a reason to struggle hard and see a good future for my kids.”

Her words resonate with hope as she looks towards the future.

“I dream of a day when my kids have access to quality education and when women like me are empowered to support their families by vocational skills.”

Islamic Relief continues to build resilience and aware communities about climate change in tribal districts and urban peripheries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## PANJPAI, BALOCHISTAN

# PROTECTING THE UNPROTECTED

Killi Muhammad Khail, UC Panjpai, was affected by devastating floods in 2017, which nearly destroyed villagers' daily lives and caused a difficult time for the residents of Panjpai and the surrounding areas. Saifullah a local resident shared, "Water comes from above, and we live near the border; there are hills over here, and when it rains, there is so much water in the watercourse. As a result, all of the villages were very concerned and in pain; men from the villages used to stand near the watercourse and try to stop the water,

but there is so much water that we never succeeded. Due to poverty, we collect money to hire a tractor for Rs 1,500 per hour. To construct a flood protection structure, however because the structure is constructed of sand, it is carried away by the water. We rebuild it, and water washes it away again.

**“ Now that Islamic Relief has built a flood protection structure, we are all safe, and the watercourse is no longer a hazard. If they build another dam, we will be very grateful to them. All villagers are extremely delighted now, our tubewells are now protected, our shops that were before in danger are now protected, and our flour grinder is also safe. ”**

Flood Protection Structure has played a significant role in the lives of Panjpai residents; it was built in 2021 as part of the Rapid Project funded by NDRMF and implemented by Islamic Relief Pakistan. When the 2022 floods hit, it protected the district and saved it from the worst devastation of its kind.



## RAWALPINDI, PUNJAB

# FROM SILENCE TO SYMPHONY

In the melody of life, every note holds its own significance, but it's often the quiet tunes that resonate the most. Hifza Safeer is a 15-year-old girl from Rawalpindi who embodies resilience and creativity. Despite her hearing impairment, her spirit shines bright, and her mind is full of creativity.

Sponsored by Islamic Relief in 2021, Hifza's journey from silence to symphony began. Her time at the INSPIRE Children camp was a turning point. Despite her challenges, she embraced every moment with passion, leaving a lasting impression on everyone she met.

Sakina, a volunteer from Islamic Relief Canada, set out to help Hifza regain her lost sense of hearing. Through the support of donors and consultations with numerous

audiologists, the path to sound began to unfold.

With the help of a hearing aid, Hifza's world was filled with sound again. In the presence of Sakina and her mother, Hifza heard her mother's voice for the first time ever.



**“ I can't express my words, my feelings, that how happy I am. Islamic Relief has been a guiding light in my life and I want it to be the same for others like me. ”**

## LET'S TALK DEVELOPMENT

# INSIGHT ON CLIMATE CHANGE, FRAGILITY, AND POVERTY NEXUS: APPROACHES AND WAY FORWARD FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

► SAMUEL RIZK (RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE UNDP)

## Islamic Relief Pakistan launched its newest initiative Development Discourse: A Series of Talks

The first episode "Climate Change, Fragility and Poverty Nexus: Approaches and Way Forward for Civil Society" of our series featured Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative UNDP Pakistan. The conversation was around Pakistan's battle with climate change. Rizk shared his insights regarding the interconnectedness between climate change, fragility, and poverty.

Pakistan faces numerous challenges stemming from climate change, with floods, droughts, and glacier melting exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. Samuel highlighted the need for accelerated resilience-building measures and effective implementation of policies to address climate challenges.

“Climate financing is vital for addressing growing needs, with a focus on bankable projects and long-term capacity-building. Advocacy for climate action must be loud and clear, backed by concrete policies and a conducive enabling environment. Investment, mitigation, adaptation, and risk insurance are key pillars of climate discourse, with initiatives like the National Adaptation Plan requiring effective implementation,

shared Samuel.

”



He also mentioned civil society's engagement and digitalization which is crucial for inclusive development, alongside prioritizing research and continuous learning. While Pakistan shows resilience, there's a need for proactive disaster management and a shift towards sustainable, project-based programmes. Islamic Relief Pakistan, in partnership with UNDP, is actively engaged in impactful initiatives to support flood-affected communities, striving for positive change and sustainable development.



To listen to the complete talk, click on the link:



[https://www.youtube.com/live/kr\\_3VvjyNZU?si=BIBZPa0E77e-JTho](https://www.youtube.com/live/kr_3VvjyNZU?si=BIBZPa0E77e-JTho)



# BEST SOCIAL WORK MOMENTS

## FAROOQ MASIH

Too many to count over a decade's career, but essentially watching people get better is delightful.

Watching a mother who lost her husband and fought for the custody of her 3 kids was an unforgettable event. She made a brave choice, fought the norms, survived against all odds and now all three of her children are seeking university education. Seeing people make sacrifices to get their lives together is the best part of my job.



## JAMILA SHAH

Working as a social worker enabled me to reevaluate my life all the time. I've been in the field for 10 years now and have seen so much trauma, abuse, violence, resistance, poverty, prejudice...the list goes on. But, I have also seen so much success, overcoming of challenges, hope, improvement, resilience, desire to do better, support, love, courage, kindness...that list goes on too.



## MUSHTAQ AHMAD

Every moment becomes noble, when making sincere and dedicated efforts to help those in need. It is particularly challenging to articulate the extent of emotional excitement when witnessing improvement in the lives of those vulnerable segments, affected by crisis.

As a humanitarian worker, the best reward for me is, observing genuine smiles and heartfelt gestures of gratitude from those, we have assisted.



Raza Narejo, Deputy Country Director, IR Pakistan

# MAKING CLIMATE FINANCING WORK FOR COMMUNITIES



Hardly any meeting, dialogue, or seminar goes by without referring to the climate change index that lists Pakistan among the ten most affected countries. When it comes to contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan stands at less than 0.1%. This simple comparison is a clarion call for global and national decision-makers to realize the immediacy of reversing these trends.

Our imagination gets encapsulated by large-scale climate-induced calamities such as the floods of 2010/11, 2014/15, and 2022, but a lot has happened between these years and months. Rural and urban communities are grappling with the vagaries of weather patterns. The conventional wisdom of the start and end of four seasons is challenged by shifting dry and wet spells. April, usually considered the dry month of the year, became the wettest one in 2024 in more than 60 years of national existence.

These ominous signs on the horizon of our country require consistent climate action in which underprivileged communities are at the heart of what we conceptualize and materialize in the domain of development. The case of Pakistan, particularly marginalized communities, is unique for the global community, where developed countries need to honor the commitments made under the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), or the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF). These climate financing mechanisms are underfunded by the global north and simultaneously overregulated, making it challenging to tap into these opportunities.

On the other hand, our national and provincial governments have yet to chalk out a roadmap for the country to effectively advocate and materialize climate financing facilities that should pave the way for resilient and green growth.

In these circumstances, communities, civil society, and humanitarian actors have a critical role in steering climate action from global to local levels. Communities in the face of the climate crisis must be engaged as active partners rather than mere recipients of resilient actions, which not only help them survive but also enhance their capacities to protect their ecosystems. Federal and provincial governments must robustly articulate the case of climate change impacts on

ecology, human life, the economy, and, consequently, stability. The fragility we witness in our socio-economic fabric is predominantly driven by climate change factors, triggering unanticipated tensions in various segments of society.

A holistic approach to tackling the climate challenge will lead to actionable steps Pakistan can take on both global and local stages. In the last three decades, communities exposed to climate-induced catastrophes have been stripped of the capacities and resources to bear the shocks. National and provincial governments must jointly develop a well-conceived framework for resilience, adaptation, and mitigation. This national framework/charter for climate change needs to be operationalized and financed in collaboration with development partners to turn the tide.

Vulnerable communities living on the fringes must take responsibility for localized actions to save ecosystems, complementing efforts by national and provincial governments. Climate change adaptation needs to be embedded in sectoral performance measurement strategies and tracked periodically with proper dissemination mechanisms in place. These measures will strengthen the voices we raise at global forums to leverage these efforts through climate financing windows.

Another aspect missing in climate actions at the national level is the inclusion of the private/corporate sector in these efforts. These entities are significant contributors to emissions but also hold the key to growth. Greening growth requires transforming the level and direction of engagement with the private/corporate sector.

Concerted efforts to save the ecosystem, amplified by civil society, complemented by humanitarian actors, synergized with the private sector, and led by federal and provincial governments will position us to take decisive climate action and benefit from climate financing streams.

# EVENTS & HAPPENINGS



Productive exchange of ideas & thoughts during meeting between CD IRP Asif Sherazi & Najy Benhassine CD World Bank Pakistan. We explored avenues of p'ships around Pakistan's most pressing issues; rural development, climate change, water access alongside stunting & malnutrition in children



A delegation from Islamic Relief Pakistan led by CD Asif Sherazi called on Geir Tonstol Country Director ILO. We discussed avenues of mutual interest and potential collaboration to address Pakistan's pressing issues including child protection, economic empowerment of women and climate change.



We were honoured and equally pleased to have Dr. Amjad Saqib, Chairperson BISP Pakistan to ink an MoU with IR Pakistan to promote partnerships for inclusive development. Together, we aim to improve the effectiveness of poverty alleviation initiatives for Pakistan's most in need.



CD IRP met the new UN RCO and Carlos GEHA from OCHA Pakistan to discuss 4RF implementation & the need to strengthen humanitarian systems. Partnerships between the government, UN and humanitarian actors can help in building resilience and improving DRM practices against climate change.



Coastal Resilience: A Case for Climate Financing' has started. It is a loud CALL TO ACTION for all stakeholders to work in synergies against the biggest issue of our times. Stay tuned as we experts share their thoughts and ideas to cope with climate change.



Team Islamic Relief Pakistan led by CD Asif Sherazi called on Representative UNHCR Pakistan Philippa. We discussed partnerships and the immediate need to address the challenges surrounding Afghan refugees and their return.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



# WATCH OUT FOR

30<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2024



# ROAD TO CLIMATE RESILIENT PAKISTAN

CURTAILING THE  
CARBON FOOTPRINTS



Developed by the Communications team at Islamic Relief Pakistan.

Hope you had a good read 😊