



July, 2023

2022 - 2023

# EPS ANNUAL REPORT

**Environmental Protection Society (EPS)**

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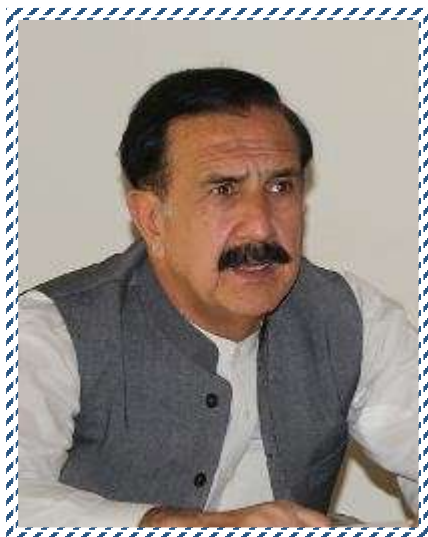
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## Note from the Chairman

I am pleased to say that EPS contributed well during the reporting year both in the humanitarian response as well as in the development sector. The EPS team remained devoted and professionally committed to quality executions and our clients and stakeholders are satisfied with our work and is much appreciable. Due to various climate-induced hazards like flash floods, and drought, the area remained very vulnerable and we are thankful to our partner organizations who came forth to support us in our cause to support the affected and vulnerable people.

We are committed to maintaining our good work and contributing the maximum to minimize the suffering, support the vulnerable communities and contribute to the development of the area as per our mandate. It's a nice opportunity to pay thanks to all EPS staff members and volunteers, who worked professionally and with full dedication.

Thank you all for your support and contribution to the success of the Society.



Prof. Abdul Wahab Khan  
Chairman EPS

## Note from the Executive Director

I proudly present the Annual Report 2022-23 another action-packed year for the Environmental Protection Society. Due to the change in the reporting period i.e. from calendar year to fiscal year, this report covers the period from January 2022 to June 2023. This year, the country faced multiple challenges in the shape of political and economic instability as well as flash flood and drought. The EPS team delivered professionally with care and respect. Our commitment toward quality services has gained partners and community support in the region during the 32 years journey of the Society.

Our partners specifically International Rescue Committee (IRC), Penny Appeal Pakistan, Tayyab Organization, and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) are worth appreciating for their financial and technical support concerning projects / programs implementation. I am thankful to the whole EPS team and the volunteers for their hard and quality work shown during the year.

I am thankful to all humanitarian and development communities, who have dedicated their lives to minimizing the suffering of needy people and local economic development.



Mr. Akbar Zeb  
Executive Director EPS

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## ACRONYMS

<b>ADC</b>	Additional Deputy Commissioner	<b>KAP</b>	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices
<b>AC</b>	Assistant Commissioner	<b>LG</b>	Local Government
<b>Admin</b>	Administration	<b>LG&amp;RDD</b>	Local Government and Rural Development Department
			Leveraging Inclusive WASH for Women Empowerment
<b>BBCM</b>	Broad Based Community Meeting	<b>LIFE</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>BCC</b>	Behavior Change Communication	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
<b>BHU</b>	Basic Health Unit	<b>MEAL</b>	Menstrual Hygiene Management
<b>BISP</b>	Benazir Income Support Program	<b>MHM</b>	National Disaster Risk Management Fund
		<b>NDRMF</b>	
<b>BOQ</b>	Bill of Quantity	<b>NGO</b>	Non Governmental Organization
<b>BRDCC</b>	Building Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change	<b>ODF</b>	Open Defecation Free
<b>CD</b>	Civil Dispensary	<b>PAPk</b>	Penny Appeal Pakistan
<b>CLTS</b>	Community Led Total Sanitation	<b>PATS</b>	Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation
<b>COVID</b>	Corona Virus Disease	<b>PHED</b>	Public Health and Engineering Department
<b>DC</b>	District Commissioner	<b>PKR</b>	Pakistani Rupees
<b>DDC</b>	District Development Committee	<b>PLA</b>	Participatory Learning and Action
<b>DPM</b>	District Project Manager	<b>PM</b>	Project Manager
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>PMDU</b>	Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU)
<b>DWSS</b>	Drinking Water Supply Scheme	<b>PPAF</b>	Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
<b>EPS</b>	Environmental Protection Society	<b>PTA</b>	Parent Teacher Association
<b>EVAW</b>	Elimination of Violence Against Women	<b>PWD</b>	Person with Disabilities
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion	<b>SLTS</b>	School Led Total Sanitation
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence		School Management Committee
	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	<b>SMC</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>GESI</b>		<b>SOPs</b>	Swat Public School
<b>GGPS</b>	Government Girls Primary School	<b>SPS</b>	Transitional Facilitators
<b>GMS</b>	Government Middle School	<b>TF</b>	Transgender Groups
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	<b>TGP</b>	Tehsil Head Quarter
<b>HOD</b>	Head of Department	<b>THQ</b>	
<b>HR</b>	Human Resource	<b>TMA</b>	Tehsil Municipal Administration
<b>IAI WASH</b>	Increasing Access to Improved WASH		Village Development Management Committee
<b>INGO</b>	International NGO	<b>VDMC</b>	Village Development Management Plan
<b>IRC</b>	International Rescue Committee	<b>VDMP</b>	Waster, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology	<b>WASH</b>	Water and Sanitation Services Company
<b>IWDP</b>	Integrated WASH Development Plan	<b>WSSC</b>	
<b>IWJs</b>	Inclusive WASH Jirgas		

## About EPS

Environmental Protection Society (EPS) is a non-governmental, non-ethnic, non-political, and indigenous organization working in the region since 1991. Its main activities and projects were concentrated in District Swat where it earned a good name and started its journey towards professionalism as well and extended its interventions to the surrounding districts; Shangla, Kohistan, Buner, Malakand, Upper Dir, and Lower Dir of Malakand Division and district Batagram of Hazara Division, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where EPS had already developed good working relations with most of the organizations and line departments. EPS head office is located in Saidu Sharif, district Swat, and is registered in 1994 under the Societies Registration Act, of 1860.

## EPS Vision and Mission

The EPS vision statement is a *“Clean and healthy environment where all people live with dignity and peace”*. EPS’ mission statement complements and builds on the organizational vision by defining its key purpose and core areas of focus which is *“To strive for inclusive development with community participation for deserving people with care and respect”*.

## EPS Values

EPS values are; Accountability, Transparency, Care, Self-Reliance, Participation and Integrity,

## EPS Programs’ Priorities

EPS four programmatic priorities are; Environment and Climate Change, Sustainable Livelihood, Education, and Health & Nutrition.

EPS Programs’ Guidelines provide a practical and step-by-step guide to the planning, designing, and implementation of each program's operations. It attempts to develop high-quality standard procedures that contribute to improved and consistent performance of programs.

## Vision

Clean and healthy environment where all people live with dignity and peace

## Mission

To strive for inclusive development with community participation for deserving people with care and respect

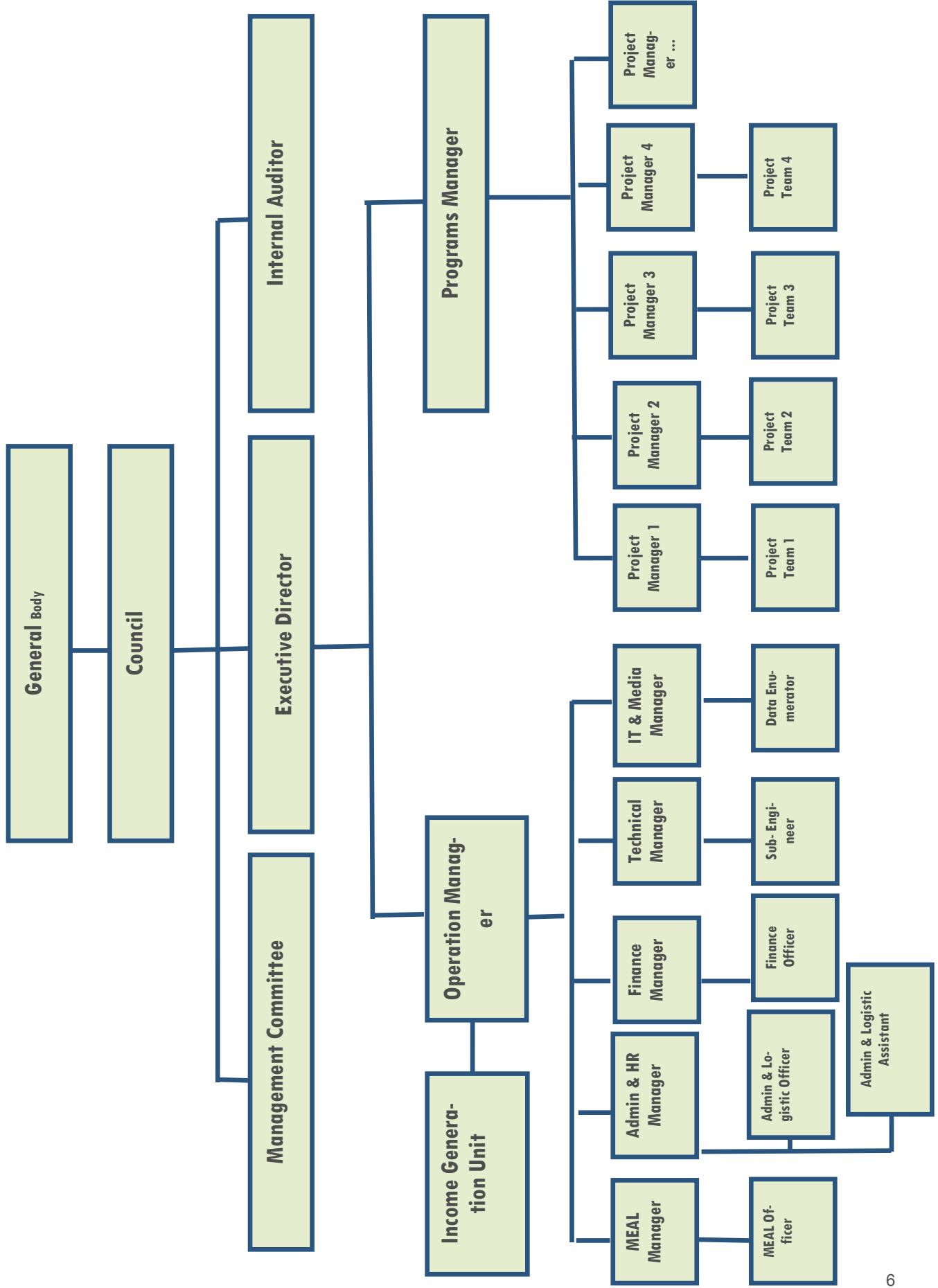
## Programmatic Priorities:

Environment & Climate Change  
Sustainable Livelihood  
Education  
Health & Nutrition

## Values

Accountability, Transparency, Care, Self-Reliance, Participation and Integrity

# ORGANOGRAM OF EPS





## EPS TEAM DURING 2022 –23

### Council/Board Members

- |                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Prof. Abdul Wahab Khan     | Chairman        |
| • Prof. Fazal Subhan Afghani | Vice Chairman   |
| • Mr. Tahir Alam             | Press Secretary |
| • Prof. Irshad Ali Khan      | Councilor       |
| • Mr. Iftikhar Ali Khan      | Councilor       |
| • Mr. Bashir Ahmad           | Councilor       |
| • Mr. Hameed Ullah           | Councilor       |
| • Ms. Huma Shakir            | Councilor       |
| • Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khan    | Councilor       |

### Key Staff Members

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| • Mr. Akbar Zeb       | Executive Director       |
| • Mr. Masroor Ahmad   | Programs Manager         |
| • Mr. Israr-UI-Haq    | M&E Manager              |
| • Mr. Khalilullah     | HR & Admin Manager       |
| • Mr. Tariq Khan      | Finance Manager          |
| • Mr. Shahab Ali Shah | IT & Media Manager       |
| • Mr. Haseeb Khan     | District Project Manager |

## Our Policies



- Finance Policy . HR Policy
- Gender Policy . EPS Code of Conduct
- Safeguarding Policy . Disposal Policy
- Harassment Policy
- Procurement Policy
- M&E Framework
- Complaints handling & Whistle Blowing Mechanism
- Risk Management Framework

## EPS Units



- Finance and Administration Unit
- Human Resource Unit
- Technical Unit
- Monitoring and Evaluation Unit
- Research and Publication

## EPS Partners



- Abt. Associates Inc.
- Asian Development Bank & Go: KPK
- British Council
- Ministry of Environment, Local Government & Rural Development
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Civil Society HID Programme (CHIP)
- Concern Worldwide Pakistan
- Custodian of two Holy Mosques Relief Campaign for Pakistan
- Department for International Development
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Government of KP
- Handicap International (HI)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC) Pakistan
- IUED, Geneva University, Switzerland
- JOBS International
- John Snow, Inc. (USAID)
- CARE International in Pakistan

- Oxfam NOVIB
- Oxfam GB
- Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF)
- Swiss NGOs Programme Office
- SDC- IC (Innovation for Poverty Reduction Project)
- South Asia Partnership (SAP) Pakistan
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Penny Appeal Pakistan
- Primary Education Project Go: of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Trust for Voluntary Organization (TVO)
- UNDP GEF SGP
- UNDP SGP PTF
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
- USAID Entrepreneurs/MEDA
- USAID- Pakistan Jobs Project
- Welt Hungerhilfe (DWHH)

### EPS PARTNERS DURING THE YEAR 2022 –23



Pakistan Poverty  
Alleviation  
Fund (PPAF)



International  
Rescue  
Committee (IRC)



## EPS PROJECTS & WORKING AREA DURING 2022—2023

### Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF)

- District Swat (Hazara, Kuzabakhel, Kanju, Kuza Bandi, Totano Bandi)
- District Shangla (Shahpur & Damorai)

### International Rescue Committee (IRC Pakistan)

- District Swat (25 villages selected across the district)

### Concern Worldwide Rapid Fund

- District Swat

### Penny Appeal Pakistan

- District Swat

## KEY ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE YEAR 2022

### Brief Note

World Environment Day was celebrated jointly by the Environmental Protection Society (EPS) and the University of Swat on June 05, 2022. This year the theme of the day was 'Only One Earth'. The event was held at the Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry – University of Swat. University students, faculty members, administration representatives, EPS officials, and Councilors were present on the occasion. Before the start of the event, a joint walk was organized in which the participants displayed Day relevant banners, and play cards with amazing messages decorated through colours.

In the concluding remarks, Mr. Fazal Mabood – Dean of the Social Sciences Department who participated on behalf of VC Swat University, highlighted key grey areas of concerns like scarcity of water, current heat waves, and forest fires and told us that it is our joint cause to work together and work better to protect our environment and provide a better place for our future generation.



Event Participants during a walk in the University of Swat

## “Only One Earth”

### World Environment Day – June 5, 2022

The event started with the recitation of a few verses of the Holy Quran after which Prof. Dr. Fazal Rabi (HOD Institute of Agri. Sciences and Forestry) highlighted the background of World Environment Day, its objectives, and the current situation. He also highlighted the role of EPS in environmental conservation.

Mr. Akbar Zeb – Executive Director in his speech stressed the students' role as well as that of EPS. He stated that issues related to environmental degradation, forest fires, drought, heat wave, and climate change are enormous but we have to work holistically to meet these challenges and play the due role on our part. He raised his concerns about the recent forest fires at various locations and pointed out that it is just an assumption that these forest fires were due to cigarette remains or picnic fires. He told that there is the involvement of humans' deliberate intentions. He passed a resolution in favor of an independent inquiry commission headed by the Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court for the current forest fires in almost 8 sites of District Swat, Shangla, and Buner.



سوات، یونیورسٹی اف سوات میں عالمی یوم ماحولیات کے حوالے سے تقریب کے اختتام پر شرکاء کا گروپ فوٹو





## 14th Citi-PPAF Micro entrepreneurship Awards

Seven of the best-performing clients of Khushhali Microfinance Bank (KMBL) were shortlisted to win prestigious accolades at the “14th Citi-PPAF Micro Entrepreneurship Awards – 2022”. Five of these seven shortlisted candidates, personally attended the ceremony organized by Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and Citi Foundation in Islamabad, to recognize the achievements of successful micro-entrepreneurs across Pakistan. Environmental Protection Society (EPS) stood second in the competition with award of 0.14 million PKR.



EPS participants in Citi-PPAF Award Ceremony

The Citi Micro-Entrepreneurship Awards Programme is a resourceful initiative, to showcase Pakistan’s real success stories to a global audience, to enrich the nation’s image. These awards recognize the achievements of the most successful micro-entrepreneurs across Pakistan, who have effectively utilized Micro-Loans, to build sustainable businesses and revenue streams to elevate their quality of life. They are enabling socio-economic growth for their families, communities, and the nation, despite resource constraints and extraordinary challenges.



## TRAINING WORKSHOP ON

### “COMPLIANCE AND SAFEGUARDING”

Environmental Protection Society (EPS) is partner of International Rescue Committee (IRC) since 2018 under ‘Leveraging Inclusive WASH for Empowerment (LIFE) Project’ funded by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) from its Water for Women Fund (WfWF). A training workshop on ‘Compliance and Safeguarding’ for the staff of IRC and EPS was organized from July 15 – 17, 2022 at Shangrila Hotel and Resort Murree.

EPS staff participated in the capacity building event and was a wonderful opportunity to learn and review existing procedures and policies from compliance and safeguarding perspectives.





## Celebration of 16 Days of Activism against GBV

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10<sup>th</sup> December, Human Rights Day. To actively participate in the campaign EPS has organized the activity in coordination with district administration, the Social Welfare department, Aurat Foundation, Women Protection Center, Child Protection, the Awakening, and other rights-based organizations working in the area. About 100+ women and girls from various schools, departments, and NGOs participated in the program. The chief guest of the program was Mr. Shahid Ali Khan, Tehsil Mayor Babozai. Speakers from various Organizations and Departments highlighted women's issues and stressed their eradication. The chief guest appreciated the effort and promised their full support in the future. This year the theme of 16 Days of Activism is "Unity". Therefore efforts have been made to bring women from various sections of society and provide them a platform to express their views, expertise and abilities. Various stalls have also been set out for displaying local products of women and organizations, which include Salampuri Shals, Luna Home Decor, Sister in Leadership Technology and Entrepreneurship Development, and other related entrepreneurship working in the area. Light entertainment was also there in the program including songs and poetry from the participants. As a whole the program was well appreciated and enjoyed by all.





## International Day for the Person with Disabilities

International PWDs Day is observed annually on December 3 every year. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of disabled persons. It also seeks to increase awareness derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life. International PWDs Day was organized by the Blind Institute Swat with the collaboration of



the HOPE and LIFE project in Blind Institute Swat. Participants of the event were ADC Swat Mr. Asghar, Principal SPS School and Collage Mr. Qazi Khalil, and other prominent personalities from government departments, NGOs, and INGOs.

## World Water Day

International World Water Day was celebrated by the EPS LIFE-Pakistan team in Swat Hotel, Saidu Sharif. It was a joint activity of EPS-IRC in coordination with ERAW Alliance, Swat. Among the attendees were students of Government PG Jahanzeb College, ERAW Alliance members, The Awakening, Omeed Welfare, Pak WIN, Education Department representatives, and Private and Public sector organizations. The main speakers at the event were AC Babozai, Executive Director EPS, DPM LIFE, In charge Darul Aman, and representatives of NGOs working in the area.



میگورہ، پانی کے عالمی دن کے موقع پر اے سی بابوزئی، ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر اے پی ایس کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر اکبر زبیب، حبیب خان اور دیگر خطاب کر رہے ہیں

## Building Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change (BRDCC) Project in Shangla

Building Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change (BRDCC) Project was implemented in two union councils of district Shangla i.e. Shahpur and Damorai in partnership with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and National Disaster & Risk Management Fund (NDRMF). The project was mainly about the mega flood protection structures, capacity building of the target community in Climate Change and DRR. The project team designed seven flood protection structures as per international standards and vetted by NDRMF Consultants. The design process and amendments as per site requirements took a quite long time due to which the project was extended to July 2022 and then in 2023 the project was not further extended. EPS formed and build the capacity of 14 VDMCs, developed 14 VDMPs, conducted O&M trainings, revitalized the VOs and conducted awareness sessions on climate change and DRR. Out of these seven schemes, three schemes were selected for the first phase implementation and were mega structure costing in the range of 15 to 25 million PKR per scheme. Due to many challenges faced during flash flood of 2022, the PPAF and NDRMF are working on a revised strategy.

EPS technical team revised the flood protection projects design and were approved by NDRMF team and their consultants—NESPAK National Engineering Services Pakistan





## INTEREST FREE LOAN PROGRAM (IFL PROGRAM)

Interest-Free Loan Programme is a part of the National Poverty Graduation Initiative (NPGI) which is under the Government of Pakistan Ehsaas Program and comes under Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division of the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Pakistan. The government has mandated the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for the implementation of the NPGI program. Environmental Protection Society (EPS) is among the 40 implementing partners of PPAF across Pakistan and now it is a full pledge program. EPS during the period Jan-2022 to Jun-2023 provided a total of 2,248 interest free loans to deserving households with coverage of 50% female borrowers. Further sector wise distribution of loans is given in below table;

S. No.	Sector	Fresh Borrowers	Graduated Borrowers	Total
1	Agriculture/Cropping	191	79	270
2	Commodity/Petty Trading	451	244	695
3	Livestock/Poultry/ Fish Farming	60	30	90
4	Manufacturing/Light Engineering/ Workshop	525	301	826
5	Embroidery/Stitching/ Handicrafts	44	21	65
6	Services (Beauty Parlor, Barber, Carts, Service Station, etc.)	189	113	302
	<b>Total Beneficiaries</b>			<b>2,248</b>

### Agriculture/Cropping

During the period Jan-2022 to Jun-2023, EPS provided interest free loans to 270 beneficiaries in Agriculture/Cropping sector. This mainly includes; Seed purchase, inputs (Seed, fertilizers, irrigation and pest management) cost for tomato, onion, wheat, rice and maize production. This also include support in fruit production like peaches, apricot and



plum etc.,. Sometime support is required for onion nursery production which the farmer sells to earn profit.

### **Commodity/Petty Trading**

This include all sort of shops including general items trading, food marketing, packaging and transportation. During the period Jan-2022 to Jun-2023, EPS supported commodity and petty trading through provision of interest free loans to 695 beneficiaries.

### **Livestock/Poultry/ Fish Farms**

EPS supported livestock rearing, poultry farming and fish farming through provision of interest free loans. During the period Jan-2022 to Jun-2023, 100 beneficiaries were benefited. The support provided was mainly used in purchase of livestock and poultry, feed and other management cost. Some of the beneficiaries added their own money to purchase cow for better income.

### **Manufacturing/Light Engineering/ Workshop**

EPS supported workshop related sector through provision of interest free loan for Spare parts dealing, mobile repairing, tyre puncture, auto repair and home appliances repair workshops, shoemaker, welder etc. During the period Jan-2022 to Jun-2023, EPS supported 65 beneficiaries in this sector.

### **Embroidery/Stitching/ Handicrafts For Women**

Women are mainly involved embroidery, stitching, handicrafts and other household level small business to earn for their families. EPS supported 90 beneficiaries in this sector. Some of them were doing tailoring, embroidery work, crochet work, cosmetics, cloths and sweet shops inside their homes. Supporting the small enterprises is a great option for women empowerment and realizing the community that women have to play their due in development.

### **Services (Beauty Parlor, Barber, Carts, etc.)**

During the reporting year, EPS supported the service sector through provision of interest free loans to 302 beneficiaries. This include but not limited to; equipment and tools for barber shop, carts like beans selling, retail vegetables and fruit selling, lumberman, rakshaw drivers, medical laboratory items, medical store, photocopy machine etc.



# LIFE PROJECT

## LEVERAGING INCLUSIVE WASH FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Environmental Protection Society (EPS) in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is implementing 'Leveraging Inclusive WASH for Empowerment (LIFE)' in district Swat funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) Australia from its Water for Women Fund (WfWF). The overall goal of the project is inclusive and climate resilience WASH services for improved health conditions of marginalized groups. The main objectives of the project are; Inclusive & Climate Resilience WASH services for all, an Inclusive & Climate Resilience WASH governance system, an inclusive decision-making system around WASH, and Knowledge management & learning.

During the start of the project, the focus was on the study of the existing situation and preparatory requirements. A baseline study on Knowledge Practice and Attitude (KAP) was carried out, villages and institutions were identified, Inclusive WASH Jirgas (IWJs) and WASH Clubs were established, Transformation Facilitators (TFs) were identified, coordination with stakeholders was established, and capacity building of project staff & community's representatives was carried out. Awareness raising on hygiene was initiated, sensitization of communities through CLTS started, Inclusive WASH Development Plans (IWDPs) were established, social and technical feasibilities of the WASH scheme initiated, and communities and stakeholders were enabled to include inclusive WASH in their agendas.

During the second year of the project, the activities were smoothly running, coordination with stakeholders was maturing, and the villages started stepping towards a hygienic environment, however unfortunately in the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the COVID Pandemic affected every aspect of life throughout the world and similarly, the project activities were also severely affected and the face of project activities was remarkably slowdown. Offices were closed down, the online project execution system was evolved, the project activities were mostly carried out in small groups with strict follow-up of COVID SOPs, and only those activities were tried where a gathering of people was not involved. Side by side the project involved awareness raising against the COVID pandemic, food provision to marginalized people, PPEs provision to health and sanitary workers, awareness on Covid SOPs, installation of hand-washing stations, etc.

This report is concerned with the closing of the first phase of the project and the initiation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of LIFE. The first phase of the project was completed successfully and the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase was initiated with new zeal and new targets as described below.



## **Awareness Sessions with all target communities (Good and safe health & hygiene practices)**

A total of 32 awareness sessions regarding Health & Hygiene were held in 43 communities including 15 male communities, 15 female, and 2 Transgender communities in the reporting period. The purpose of these sessions is mainly to orient communities on health issues due to their unhygienic behavior associated with water, sanitation, and hygiene. People are insisted to understand and develop good hygienic practices for safe and sound health, promotion of health



and hygiene education, risks of waterborne diseases, communicable diseases, HIV, etc. COVID-19-related information is also disseminated by discussing symptoms, prevention, and precautions to take in corona. The main objective was to give hygienic awareness and its replication from generation to generation.

## **Creating awareness/Guidance on MHM among Women and Girls of reproductive age and stress management**

5 sessions on MHM with women and girls have been conducted in the reporting period creating awareness/ guidance on MHM and stress management among women and girls of reproductive age. MHM session is one of the key activities in achieving better health and hygiene and dismantling stubborn barriers to gender equality and transforming the lives of adolescent girls and women, supporting them to become healthy, educated, and empowered, able to direct the course of their own lives.



### Follow up on WASH Clubs

WASH club is a type of organizations, which are established in educational institutions. The purpose of the WASH club is to sensitize students, teachers, parents and communities about health hazards, promotion of sustainable child-friendly and gender-friendly WASH facilities and management of solid and liquid waste in schools and health institutions. In the formation of WASH, the selection of two focal persons from teachers/ Health workers having an interest in WASH activities is made along with 8 to 10 members from the facility/ students. WASH club is working as a focal point for WASH services to institutions i.e. coordination with SMC and PTA, providing functional sanitation services to the children and teachers, sharing hygiene messages, and ensuring that hand washing is practiced and soap is available. WASH clubs take care of disable children services in the institution, celebrating hygiene events to raise awareness among the community, and generating resources for the maintenance of facilities through different activities.

### Educating and Facilitating Community Members on the Utilization of Prime Minister Complaint Resolution

Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU) established in 2013 has been reorganized with a new vision to promote citizen-centric and participatory governance. PMDU is pioneering a nation-wide complaints and grievance redressal mechanism (prime Minister complaint resolution mechanism (PCRM) ).The primary objective of the activity is to provide citizens' an opportunity to seamlessly communicate with all government entities and have their issues resolved with priority, under the vision of the Government. Total 5 sessions have been conducted with Male & female communities of target villages. Communities were informed about the process complaint registration with practical demonstration. The communities were also informed about their basic rights and civil documentation.



## Independent Living Skills

To learn the skills and to realize the hidden potential of the PWDs to deal with real-time situations in their day-to-day life, independent living skills trainings were organized. A total of 29 participants (24 women and 05 Girls including caregivers from the target area were



trained. In different villages, different approaches were adopted keeping in view the participant's education level, exposure, venue, and availability of time. The main approach followed was the experiential approach, presentation, and individual learning so that participants could better understand the session. Besides that local language and local examples were given to make the session more understandable for the participants.

### Financial Support to Marginalized Women

The objective of this activity is to support women's independence, reduce the risk of social exclusion, improve their livelihood, and strengthen their capacity to manage a small business at the household level and upgrade it at a large scale over time. A kit including WASH-related items with the cost of Rs. 20,000/- was distributed among 10 clients including widows, marginalized, PWDs, and TGP. The use of material and its prices were explained and documentation was accomplished. They started their business at their house and mostly running well.





### **Distribution of Assistive Devices to PWDs**

The aim was to empower marginalized groups in improving their participation in the decision-making process, and enable them to be normal citizens of the community assistive devices were provided to 25 PWDs. The devices include wheelchairs, visual aids, hearing aids, etc.



### **Construction / Rehabilitation of WASH Infrastructure**



Construction of fifteen WASH schemes was carried out during the reporting year, which includes five villages, five education institutions, and five health institutions. Following is the detail of WASH schemes executed during the year 2021.

## Detail of the WASH Scheme Carried out During the Reporting Period

No	Location	UC	Type	Scope of Work
1	CD Chitaward	Islampur	Sanitation	Washroom Rehab 2 no. Septic Tank & Sock Pit
2	THQ Barikot	Barikot	Sanitation	Washroom Construction and waiting shad
3	BHU Gwalerai	Gwalerai	Sanitation	Latrine, Septic Tank with Sock Pit
4	CD Kokarai	Kokarai	Sanitation	Washroom Rehab, Railing and Waiting Shad
5	BHU Chungai	Zarakhela	Sanitation	Washroom rehab, septic tank with soakage pit
6	GGPS Churkhai	Kota	WATSAN	Bore Hole, Motor & Rehab washrooms 2 no's
7	GMS Sepal Bandai	Islampur	DWSS	Replacement of Damage GI pipe
8	GGPS Ayeen	Mankyal	DWS/Sanitation	Rehabilitation of 4 washrooms and water tank
9	Blind Association	Rahim Abad	Sanitation	Construction of washroom, Ramp and Ground
10	GGPS Jahangir	Kota	DWS/Sanitation	Solar panels, motor, Septic Tank with sock pit
11	IWJ Shukhdara	Matta	DWSS	Bore Hole, Hand Pump, and pressure pump
12	IWJ Lilbanrd	Gwalerai	DWSS	Bore Hole, Hand Pump, and pressure pump
13	IWJ Rordia	Gulibagh	DWSS	Bore Hole, Hand Pump, and pressure pump
14	IWJ Manja	Totano Bandai	DWSS	Intake Chamber, Pipe Line, Water Tank rehab.
15	IWJ Ghalegay	Ghalegay	DWSS	Intake Chamber, source water channel

### Verification & Certification of ODF Villages

Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages are the prime objective of LIFE Pakistan to transform the communities from open defecation to washroom-based defecation. The process was initiated with the establishment of the ODF Committee by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Swat with membership from line departments including Health, Education, Local Government, PHED, and TMAs. The district ODF committee was trained on the ODF process. IWJs of all identified villages were also trained on the ODF process. 25 villages have been declared ODF by their respective IWJs, which were then verified by the ODF committee and recommended for certification to Deputy Commissioner Swat. Deputy Commissioner Swat issued ODF certificates to all these villages based on the recommendations of the ODF Committee.





## Sanitation Campaign

5 Sanitation campaigns organized jointly by EPS-IRC in coordination with line departments including TMAs, LG&RDD, Education, Health, and villages IWJs. Sanitation campaign is a joint awareness program usually conducted jointly with TMAs and Local Government representatives. Health and hygiene issues are highlighted in the program, and corrective and protective



measures against the unhygienic situation are emphasized. A cleaning campaign is jointly organized after the session. The overall objective of the sanitation campaign is to orient the community on good hygiene practices, safe drinking water use, safe disposal of solid waste, and the benefits of open defecation-free villages.

## District Coordination Committee (DCC) Meetings

Two District Coordination Committee (DCC) meetings were held at the Deputy Commissioner Office Swat in the reporting period. These meetings were chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Swat, Mr. Suhail Khan. Representatives from the line department including health, education, TMAs, LG, and PHED participated in these meetings. The main objective of these meetings is close coordination with the concerned line departments, progress sharing of the LIFE project, and smooth proceedings on the ODF process for identified villages.

## Exchange visit of TFs & IWJs to Line Departments

Two exchange meetings of IWJs and TFs were held with all TMAs of District Swat during the reporting period. The main objective of these meetings was to orient the community representatives on the scope of work of the TMAs, the service delivery process of TMAs, the communication process of TMAs, and how to approach TMA for the resolution of specific issues. In these meetings, the community's representatives highlighted the relevant issues of their villages and sought out the feedback of the TMAs on these issues. The majority of issues of these communities specifically related to solid waste management have been resolved due to these exchange visits.



## Progress Sharing Event at Swat Press Club

A progress-sharing event was organized in Swat Press Club to publicize the project activities carried out under the LIFE Pakistan project in district Swat. A total of 40 Participants attended the program including journalists & reporters from newspapers and news channels. A detailed presentation on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene facts in Pakistan related to unsafe drinking water, the issue of open defecation in villages, and unhygienic situations in rural and urban communities was conducted. The implications of the ill situation and its adverse effects on the health and economy of the people were discussed. The initiatives taken by the LIFE Pakistan project to tackle the effects of WASH-related issues in marginalized communities were thoroughly explained. Progress related to project activities was shared



## GESI Research Study

The gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) research study was conducted along with the GESI team IRC in Ayeen, Tang Band, and Jahangir. The study aims to assess the impact of the project initiatives in empowering women, reducing the gender and social gap, and increasing safe access to inclusive WASH services for all. Data from 07 women and 2 PWDs were collected from the mentioned villages.

## Joint Outcome Monitoring (JOM)

To gauge the progress against the set outcome indicators and to assess the effectiveness, relevancy, quality of services, level of client participation and if any positive/negative, intended/unintended impacts produced by the project, a Joint outcome monitoring exercise has been carried out in sample villages across District Swat. A total of 12 FGDs (1 man, 1 woman per village) have been carried out in Village Maloch, Ayeen, Tang band, Jano, Ado, and Jahangir where hard as well as soft activities are implemented. In addition, 11 key informant interviews were conducted with health facility focal points i.e., Health Officers/Doctors and Headteachers of Girls and Boys Government schools who remained involved in IRC/EPS project activities to assess the effectiveness of LIFE-Pakistan intervention in health/ education facilities. Target health facilities were civil Hospital Barikot, CD Kokarai, BHU Charbagh, BHU Talang, and BHU Chitaward Sepal Bandai. Target education institutions were GGPS Qibla Bahrain, GGPS Ayeen, GGPS Churkhai, GMS Sepal Bandai, Omung Special School, and Kohisar Special School.





## Assessment of Villages for LIFE-II

The second phase of the project with the name of LIFE-II was started in January 2023. The first two months were spent on the project proposal writing the budget finalization and signing an agreement with IRC. Formal activities of phase II were started in March 2023. The first activity of the project was the assessment of villages for the second phase. In the previous phase, there were 25 villages in the scope of the project, whereas, in the second phase, it was decided to focus only on 15 villages out of the previous 25 villages. Based on predetermined criteria related to Climate resilience and Inclusive WASH, and a comprehensive assessment with FGDs exercises 15 villages have been identified for selection including; Jahangir, Ghalegay, Sepal Bandai, Maloch, Alamganj, Toha, Tang band, Shukhdara, Jano, Tekdarai, Ado, Qandil, Ayeen, Bahrain, Kalam Bazar



## Broad-Based Community Meetings

Broad-based community meetings were held and the project voice was spread out in 15 target villages through male and female. Community members from the whole village were tried to be accessed. The community was sensitized through the facts and figures of WASH in the country along with its consequences on health and the economy. Project objectives and deliverables were portrayed and enthusiastic volunteers were identified to further utilize them for project activities. Furthermore, the existing IWJs were either reformed/restructured with new members or strengthened with the addition of a member from the elected local



## Inception / Consultation Workshop with Stakeholders

EPS organized an Inception Workshop at the district level on 30th May 2023 at Pameer Hotel, Mingora Swat, and brought all the representatives of relevant stakeholders such as; District Administration, Public Health Engineering department (PHED), Tehsil Municipal Administration, LG&RDD, Social Welfare Department, Education Department, Health department, WSSCS Swat, Environmental Protection Agency, Forest Department, Agriculture department, District Disaster Management Authority, Rescue: 1122 and Press club.



It was indeed a great success of the EPS LIFE-II team that a majority of Government stakeholders not only ensured their valued participation but also discussed the issue with different perspectives and submitted their viewpoints for further discourse.



## **Increasing Access to Improved Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Pakistan (IAIWASH)**

Environmental Protection Society (EPS) in Partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is implementing a Project “Increasing Access to Improved WASH” to improve the water and sanitation access for remote communities in selected villages of district Swat. The Project is being funded by Charity: Water – a non-profit organization that aims to bring clean and safe water to people around the world to end the global water crisis. A major part of the Project will entail construction, repair, and rehabilitation of water supply schemes in targeted villages. During the Project, successful partnerships and institutional linkages will be developed to strengthen water provision to communities and assist Government line departments in improving monitoring and coordination. Women, adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups will be empowered through community mobilization and capacity-building trainings. Finally, evidence will be generated around all project activities.

The main activities of the project include; the formation of Water Management Committees (WMCs), Water Quality Testing, Introduction of PATS, Low-Cost Sanitation Solutions, Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and School Led Total Sanitation (SLTS) approaches, Trainings related to hygiene promotion, WASH Clubs, Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) etc.

### **Staff Orientation**

Two orientation sessions were held for the staff of the ‘Increasing Access to Improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Pakistan’ project. The first was organized by EPS in its office, which was a two-day program with various sessions on program activities and organization policies. The staff was oriented on the EPS policies and strategies. The project proposal was thoroughly discussed along with a detailed implementation plan and project area etc.



The second orientation program was organized by IRC in the EPS office swat, in which the background of the project, goals and objectives of the project, and various processes involved in the execution of the project activities were explained. The targets of the project were thoroughly explained and the unique database established by the charity: water to maintain was thoroughly discussed and oriented to the project staff.



## **Inception Workshop**

Two-day Inception workshop was organized by IRC in Peshawar in which Buner, Peshawar, and Swat teams jointly participated. In the inception workshop background of WASH was discussed, the project design document was thoroughly explained, and planned targets with the percentage proportion of water supply schemes, sanitation schemes, and hygiene were explained. The approach, methodology, processes, and strategies to be adopted for the smooth and successful implementation of the project were also brought to the table.

## **Engineer's Training**

Training of Engineers was jointly organized by IRC at VIP Guest House Peshawar. The main objective of the training was to develop a joint understanding concerning the design standards related to WASH schemes to be carried out under the project. Various WASH subjects with related permissible standards were discussed in the training, which included; Sphere standards, Hydraulic statement, inclusion standards, water supply options, solar water supply scheme, spring protection, repair and maintenance, latrine construction, and types of contracts etc.



## **PATS Plus and PLA Training**

Training of the social staff of the project on the 'Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation (PATS) and Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)' module was organized by IRC in VIP Guest House Peshawar. Project staff from District Swat, Buner, and Peshawar jointly participated in the training. The main objectives of the training were; to understand the principles and practices of hygiene promotion, social mobilization, PLA, PATS Plus & SBCC tools and techniques, to introduce participants to health & development and their relationship, to orientate participants on advocacy and social mobilization, to capacitate participants on linkages development with Government Lines departments and other stakeholders, to equip participants with gender-sensitive hygiene promotion facilitation skills, to orient participants on behavior change techniques BCC, to equip learners with skills on community governance, good leadership and problem-solving techniques, and to equip participants to face social and cultural challenges in implementation of PATS Plus Approach.

## Safeguarding Training

A day-long safeguarding training of all the team members was jointly organized by IRC at Peshawar. A range of topics aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals, particularly vulnerable populations were covered in the training including; Introduction to Safeguarding, recognizing abuse and harassment, reporting procedures, risk assessment and management, safeguarding policies and procedures, confidentiality and data protection, safeguarding children, harassment at the workplace, promoting a safeguarding culture, case studies and practical scenarios, etc.

## BOQs & Cost Estimates

Bill of quantities and cost estimates of 8 schemes have so far prepared which are including; 2 solar pressure pumps, 5 gravity water supply schemes and one pressure pump. These are presently under review and shall be finalized within a week time for tender process.



## Villages Identification

According to the project proposal, the activities shall be carried out in 9 Village Councils of three tehsils of district Swat including Tehsil Bahrain, Matta, and Charbagh. Based on the desk review and Gallup survey, about 75 small, medium, and large villages were proposed to be assessed in the targeted Village Councils. Android-based villages' assessment tool was jointly developed and an initial assessment of 75 villages was carried out on the online tool. A ranking criteria for the selection of villages was already established, and based on the ranking criteria 25 villages were proposed to be selected for project intervention.





### **Pre KAP Survey**

A Pre-Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) survey was carried out to evaluate the current Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) of target communities concerning Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, and to Identify and document key gaps in Knowledge, Attitudes, and



Practices that remain unaddressed within the target communities for future attention and mobilization of resources. The Pre-KAP survey was carried out on a sample basis with 128 HH interviews including 50% with men and 50% with women in 16 villages of the target community. After the completion of the project, the Post-KAP survey shall be carried out for cross-checking the results of Pre-KAP to quantify the impact of the project activities area.

### **Broad-Based Community Meetings (BBCM) and formation of WASH Jirga's (IWJs)**

Broad-based community meetings were carried out in 15 villages with men and women of the communities. In the BBCM activity, the WASH facts and figures and their adverse effects on the economy and health are mainly discussed to sensitize the communities, the project background and introduction are made and the project for the execution of project activities are mainly discussed.





## Social and Technical Feasibilities of WASH Schemes

Initial assessment of water supply and sanitation schemes in the target communities has been initiated. So far 20 social and technical feasibilities have been carried out.



The design of water supply and sanitation schemes is under process. BOQs and cost estimates along with tender documents are expected to be completed soon.

### Coordination with Line Departments

Initial meetings were held with the district administration, PHED, Education, social welfare, and Health departments. Project activities, processes, and methodologies were discussed and shared. An understanding was jointly developed to carry out the project activities in a coordinated manner for effectiveness and results orientation.



Overall the detailed project implementation plan is on track, activities are smoothly progressing towards actions, and the preparatory period is almost at the last stage. The outputs are expected to be reported in the next Annual Report in detail.

# Response to the Flash Flood of 2022

## Partnership with Penny Appeal Pakistan

Flash floods triggered in two sub-valleys near Mingora city of district Swat and caused huge damage in urban and surrounding rural villages on August 24, 2022. One death casualty, 03 livestock, and 09 houses were partially damaged while thousands of houses and hundreds of shops are filled with silt and debris along with schools, roads, and playgrounds. On August 26, 2022, a high-level flood triggered from Utror Gabral and has caused huge damages along its way to the lower districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In partnership with Penny Appeal Pakistan, EPS has responded immediately in the shape of rapid need assessment and emergency response. EPS has targeted the most affected areas like VC Malakanaan (Babozai Tehsil), VC Charbagh 2 (Charbagh Tehsil) and Qandil (Tehsil Bahrain). EPS has so far distributed cooked meat rice 1 kg pack with a 1.5 litre bottled water to 816 persons. One package is enough for two persons. We are trying to reach more people in the coming days. A relief camp has been also estab-





## Partnership with Tayyaba Organization—Emergency Response 2022

Environmental Protection Society (EPS) in partnership with Tayyaba Organization distributed food items package among 180 families, Hygiene kits among 180 families and tents among 50 families in tehsil Matta and Bahrain of district Swat in the month of September 2022. This was a one time project and was closed successfully.





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2022-2023

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**EPS Conserve the Environment**

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