

Livelihood Programme Hindukush

(LPH)

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Better livelihood opportunities bring more sustainable development ©IC

Empowering Communities

The poor rural communities of northwest Pakistan depend largely on natural resources for their livelihoods. Over the years, these resources have been degraded and destroyed by bad management or natural disasters, such as floods and landslides seriously affecting the lives of the local populations. For this reason, SDC has focused its Livelihood Programme Hindukush (LPH) on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The programme was launched together with Intercooperation in 2008; however, the needs of the already vulnerable communities have further increased since the floods destroyed many livelihoods in the area in 2010.

The LPH focuses on creating conditions, in which communities can manage land and water in a more efficient manner. It fosters income generation through quick impact projects to build trust, and implements longer-term interventions for livelihood support, value chain development and sub-sector facilitation in the region by improving the flow of inputs, better access to technical services of the public and private sector and improving access to the market.

"We now cultivate our own fruit and vegetable"

Lal Bibi, beneficiary of the LPH project in DI Khan

Aim of the Programme

The programme seeks equitable access to public and private services and addresses rights issues, such as participation in decision-making or obtaining land and water rights. It builds local capacities and service delivery systems around specific resources, like seed supplies for agriculture crops, livestock health facilities, and focuses on economic activities and improving access to markets in marginalised districts.

In order to enhance communities' incomes, strengthen social capital, i.e. community organisations, and develop the skills of the local people, the LPH focuses on natural-resource-based livelihood means, such as agriculture and water management.

It aims at providing potable water by constructing new drinking water schemes and storage water ponds; introducing measures to improve on and off-farm production (crop productivity has increased by 74% in some areas) and dry-land management techniques; diversifying livelihood options by teaching villagers new skills as well as encouraging women and young people to establish rural enterprises by offering them vocational training sessions. In order to ensure the sustainability of these developments, strengthening the capacities of government line agencies (agriculture, water management, forestry, education and social welfare) and local service providers is an essential part of the programme. The ultimate aim is to reduce poverty and empower communities to better manage their lives in the long run.

Time Frame:	January 2008 to December 2016
Total SDC Budget:	CHF 22.04 millions
Geographic Focus:	Chitral, Lower Dir, Swat, Karak and DI Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Bajaur, Mohmand & FR DI Khan in the Federal Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)

Participatory Approach

The programme's participatory approach, its close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, the Agencies and district administrations as well as the thematic focus of its interventions in water and land management, local economic development and access to quality services builds up trust between the state and the citizens and enhances space for social development.

Partner

- Intercooperation (IC)

Further information

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