

# Building Climate Resilience with Indigenous Strategies in Balochistan's Jaffarabad and Sohbatpur



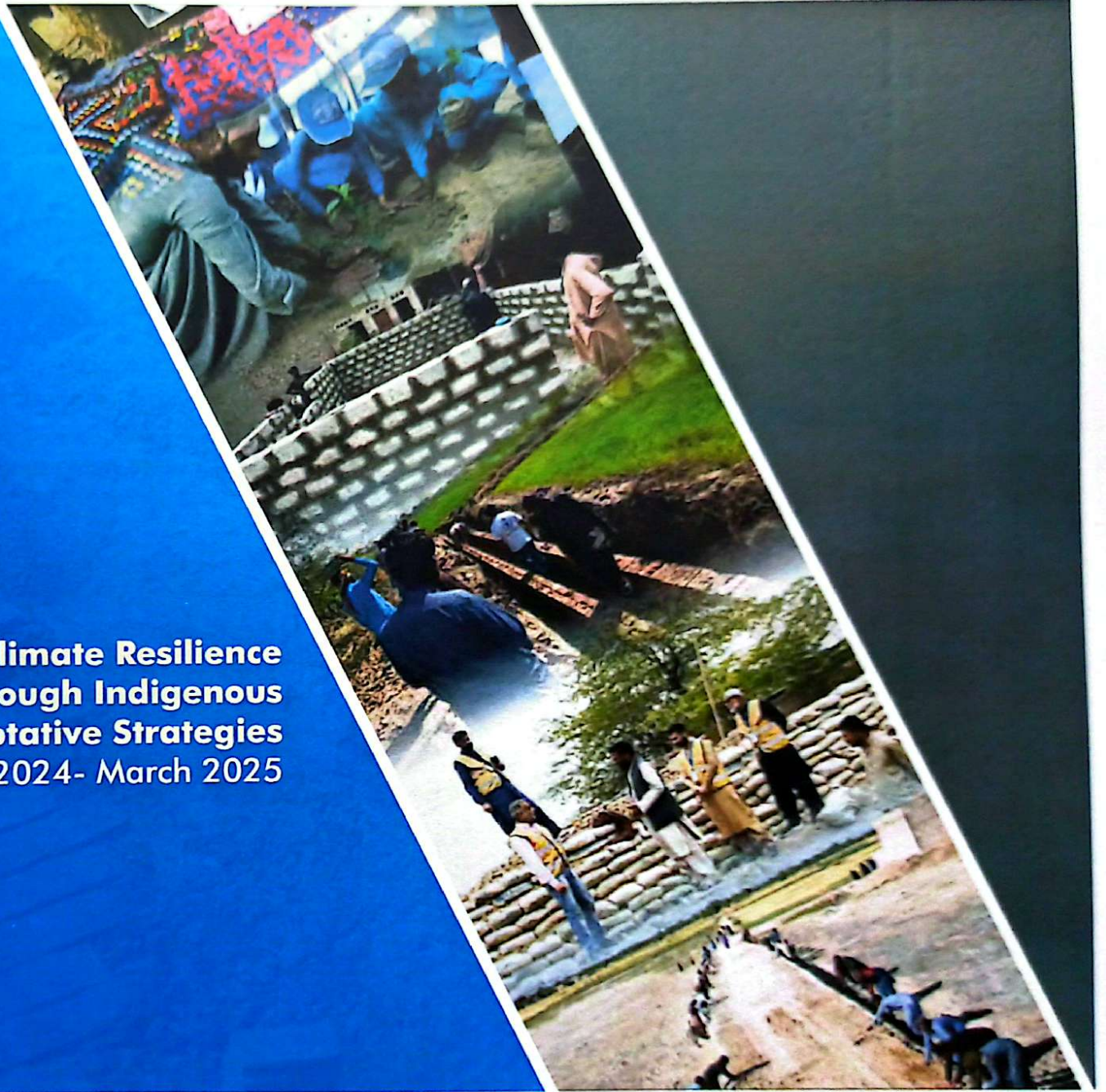
SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



**Transformative  
Journey from  
Vulnerability to  
Empowerment**



**Community Based Climate Resilience  
and Protection through Indigenous  
Adaptative Strategies**  
December 2024- March 2025





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## Prelude

This stories booklet outlines the impact of ACT International's project in Balochistan, with support of WFP, showcasing its contribution to climate action under Pakistan's National Adaptation Plan.

This project as per its objectives restores dignity and fostering long-term stability of 10,000 flood affected households in the districts of Jaffarabad and Suhbatpur. These 10,000 families comprised of 70,000 individuals including 24,067 women, 22,763 men, 11,621 girls, and 11,437 boys. This humanitarian intervention provided critical support to communities devastated by loss, enabled them to rebuild their lives with strength, dignity, and resilience.

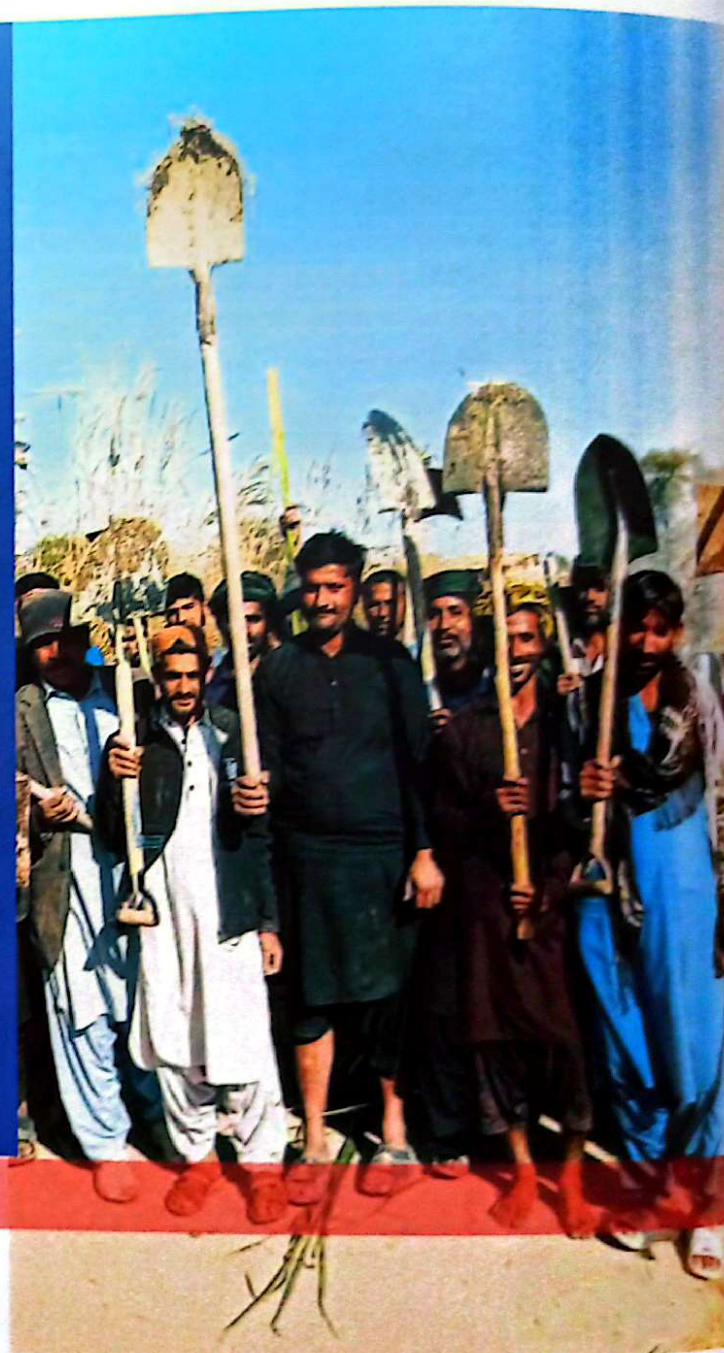
The project successfully met its goals within just three months due to strong collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), and the Forest and Health Departments and Village Development Committees (VDCs). These VDCs played a key role in all project activities including supporting climate-resilient infrastructure and helping in select beneficiaries for cash-for-work and training activities beyond the clock.

Under the FLA, ACT constructed eight sandbag walls (1.32 km) and two stone-pitched embankments (8,125 sq. ft.) along the Muhbat Shakh canals, improving flood protection for 7,000 people across 22 villages. In addition, 33 sandbag-reinforced kacha paths (8.7 km) were built, directly benefiting 33 villages and improving access for 65 more.

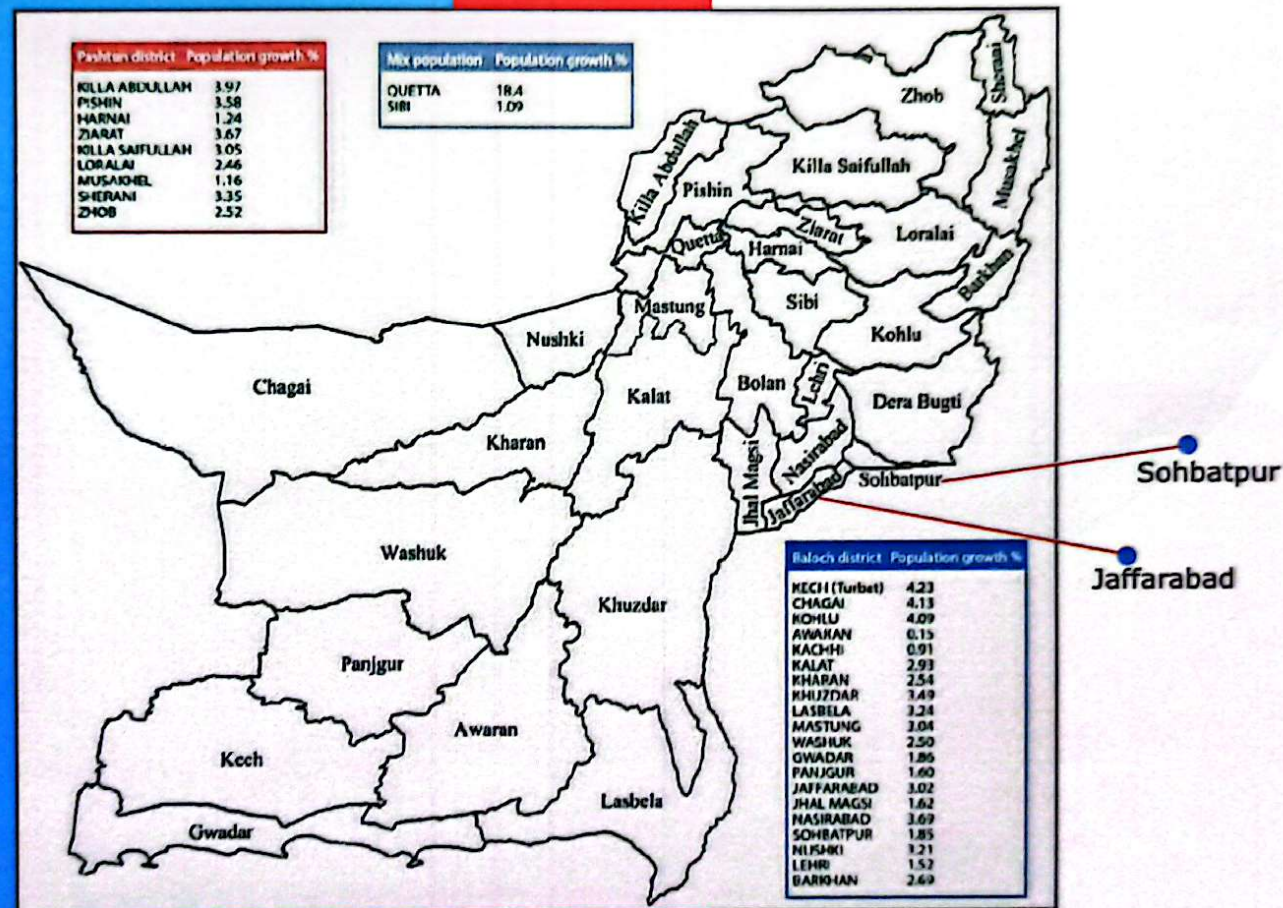
Water resource management improved through the rehabilitation of 15 water ponds equipped with filters and hand pumps, benefiting 7,500 people in 35 villages. Other infrastructure included six animal shades nine washing stations, and eight pipe culverts.

Capacity-building efforts focused on women's empowerment and climate adaptation. A total of 1,279 women were trained in livestock care, 1,142 in climate-smart agriculture and gardening, and 854 in enterprise development. Another 618 women learned to build energy-efficient mud stoves, set up nurseries, and use indigenous planting methods. These trainings led to tangible outcomes: 400 hen coops, 50 kitchen gardens, 38 hydroponic units, 10 composting villages, 10 nurseries, over 1,000 mud stoves, and 10,000 trees planted.

With strong mobilization, technical support from the ACT team, VDCs took full ownership of the project. Their engagement was instrumental in mobilizing all communities and constructing additional infrastructure: 3 protection walls, 52 water ponds, 7 animal sheds, 3 washing stations, 5 pipe culverts, 45 access paths, and 5 community centers beyond what was supported by WFP. ACT also provided financial support through its community-based Kare-Kahir project.











**10,000**  
Beneficiaries received cash assistance  
of PKR 42,000 each



**420**  
million rupees disbursed



**3,893**  
beneficiaries – livelihood support



**70,000**  
individual beneficiaries benefitted



**11**  
Protection Walls



**67**  
Water Ponds



**13**  
Animal Shades



**78**  
Access Pathways



**12**  
Washing Stations



**13**  
Pipe Culverts



**81**  
NFI Schemes





### WFP and ACT International: Driving Climate-Resilient Development in Pakistan

With generous support from the World Food Programme, ACT has worked to enhance climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and sustainable development in alignment with Pakistan's National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

The project aimed to reduce vulnerability to climate hazards such as floods and droughts through sustainable agriculture, effective water management, and risk mitigation strategies.

These initiatives support Sustainable Development Goals 13 (Climate Action) and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), while also emphasizing humanitarian aid, inclusive development, and the strengthening of local and institutional capacities to address environmental and socioeconomic challenges.

### Building Bridges – Partnering with Government to Empower Communities

Strategic coordination has been key to ACT's success in Balochistan. Throughout the project, ACT maintained close collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan, whose consistent support was vital in achieving project goals.

This partnership extended to the district level, where the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) of Jaffarabad and Sohbatpur actively engaged with and praised ACT's efforts. Their participation in International Women's Day events and a visit to a project site in Sohbatpur highlighted their shared commitment to community development.

ACT's collaborative approach also produced tangible outcomes. In partnership with the Forest Department, ACT organized a community walk and secured trees for environmental sustainability. The Irrigation Department also contributed to infrastructure resilience by reinforcing embankment walls in Sohbatpur and Jaffarabad.







The Deputy Commissioner of Sohbatpur attended the exhibition and International Women's Day celebration organized by ACT.



ACT facilitated a coordination meeting between WFP, PDMA representatives, and the Deputy Commissioner of Jaffarabad to strengthen collaboration and project coordination.

*This collaboration led to stronger support, active participation from officials, and a shared commitment to community resilience. What began as coordination grew into a partnership rooted in mutual respect and the shared vision of sustainable development.*



These government departments acknowledged the support of WFP and ACT immensely and also awarded ACT with appreciation letters.



## OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SOHBAT PUR

PWR-01/2024/123

No. 18/2024/MZ/Act/1/3 Pur  
Dated 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

To

The Provincial Program Manager,  
ACT-International, BalochistanSubject: **APPRECIATION LETTER**

This office hereby formally expresses its deepest appreciation for the exceptional work undertaken by ACT-International in District Sohbatpur. Your organization's unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have significantly contributed to the welfare and progress of the community.

The successful execution of your projects in the district is a testament to the professionalism, expertise, and passion that your organization brings to its humanitarian work. Your initiatives have improved the lives of countless individuals and fostered a spirit of hope and resilience among local communities in the face of adversity.

Particular gratitude is owed for your organization's dedication to empowering local populations and promoting sustainable development practices. Your efforts have made a lasting impact on the lives of those in need, and your focus on community-driven solutions is truly commendable.

It has been an honor to partner with ACT-International, and this office anticipates further collaboration in the future.

Please accept sincere gratitude for the exemplary work undertaken by your organization in District Sohbatpur.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
SOHBAT PUR

Copy to:

1. The Director General, PDMA Balochistan Quetta
2. The Commissioner, Nawabshah Division
3. The Assistant Commissioner, Sohbat Pur/Marjapur



## OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SOHBAT PUR

PWR-01/2024/123

No. 49/2024/MZ/Act/1/3 Pur  
Dated 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

To

The Provincial Program Manager,  
ACT-International, BalochistanSubject: **OFFICE ENDORSEMENT FOR / CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**

Please refer to the subject cited above.

2. This is to formally certify that ACT-International has successfully completed the project titled "Community-Based Climate Resilience and Protection through Adaptive Indigenous Strategies," in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) in District Sohbat Pur.

3. The project, which was implemented from December 2024 to March 2025, has successfully met all established objectives, demonstrating exceptional commitment to enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities.

Sr	Activity Details	Total Number of Interventions	No. of Beneficiaries Engaged	Payment per Cycle	Number of Cycle	Total Payment Head
1	Rehabilitation of Existing Protection Walls	Based on Validation	1000	14,000/-	3	42,000/-
2	Rehabilitation of Water Ponds	Based on Validation	600	14,000/-	3	42,000/-
3	Rehabilitation of Kacha Pathways	Based on Validation	824	14,000/-	3	42,000/-
4	Enterprise Development Trainings	13	500	14,000/-	3	42
5	Livestock Training	21	600	14,000/-	3	42
6	Smart Agriculture Trainings	13	326	14,000/-	3	42,000/-
Total Beneficiaries (Male 2426) Female 1624			4050			

3. The successful implementation of this project is a clear reflection of ACT-International's dedication to improving the lives of marginalized communities. The positive impact made through this initiative has significantly contributed to strengthening the resilience and protection of the affected populations.

5. It is anticipated that ACT-International will continue to exhibit the same level of excellence, professionalism, and commitment in all future projects, providing timely and effective support to those in need.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
SOHBAT PUR

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### Boosting Climate Resilience with Protection & Evacuation Infrastructure

The project adopted a comprehensive strategy to restore infrastructure. It upgraded water channels, revived ponds, and strengthened unpaved roads with targeted earth filling.

Additionally, building and repairing embankments, raised platforms, and culverts enhanced connectivity and boosted the local economy.





### Working Together with Communities

ACT supported the project by closely coordinating with Village Development Committees (VDCs), who played a key role in identifying climate-resilient infrastructure schemes and selecting beneficiaries for cash for work (CFW) and cash for training (CFT) activities. ACT facilitated planning and implementation in collaboration with the VDCs, organized community meetings, and managed cash disbursements, addressing any beneficiary issues. The project promoted community ownership, with completed schemes formally handed over to VDCs for continued operation and maintenance.

### Boosting Climate Resilience with Protection & Evacuation Infrastructure

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### Protective Walls That Foster Peace and Ensure Safety

Communities who had constant threat of floods destroying homes, livestock, and livelihoods with each monsoon now taking the sense of relief. The project supported construction of two essential structures: a protective wall and a livestock shelter. The wall now shields the village from floodwaters, offering long-awaited peace of mind. The animal shed provides a clean, secure space for livestock—ensuring families' primary source of milk, meat, and income is safe.

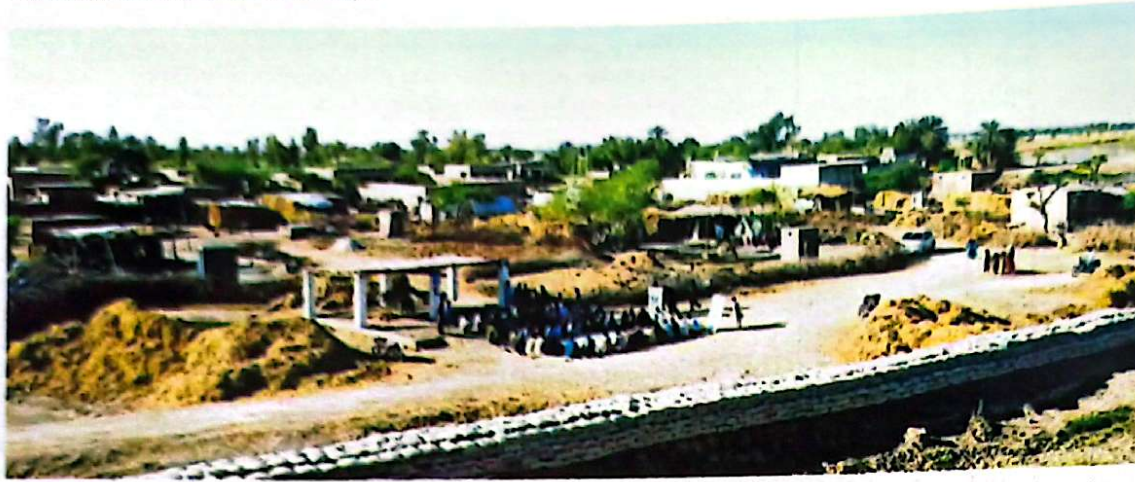
*“We used to pray all night when dark clouds gathered,” recalls Wali Dad, a village elder. “Our homes turned into rivers, and many animals drowned.”*



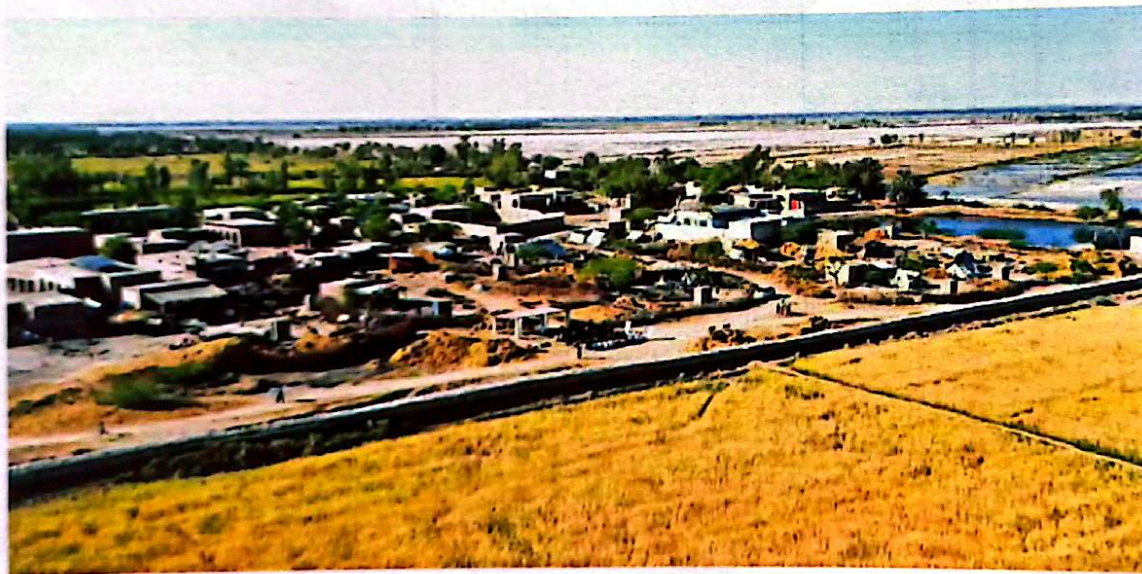
Pre-images of the Protection wall in Umar Khan Khosa, UC Mazoi, District Sohbatpur



Balochistan's Jaffarabad &amp; Sohbatpur











A pivotal community meeting inside the new protection wall marked a fresh start and united stand against future floods



An aerial view reveals the reinforced protection wall, shielding Umar Khan Khosa village

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Achievements	Total Schemes
 Protection Walls	8
 Water Ponds	15
 Animal Shades	6
 Access Pathways	33
 Washing Stations	9
 Pipe Culverts	8
 Embankment strengthened with earth filling and stone pitching	2
 NFI Schemes	81





### Animal Shades: Protecting Livestock & Securing Livelihoods

- *"Before, we tied animals to trees or brought them inside," says Sher Muhammad, holding his calf.*

*"Now they have a proper shelter—it's a huge relief."*







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**Washing Station- "No More Muddy Waters—Washing with Comfort, Health, and Dignity"**

Previously, the villages lacked a proper washing station, forcing community members, particularly women, to wash clothes along water channels, which posed health risks. Now, a dedicated washing station has been built, offering a safe, hygienic, and dignified space that reduces the risk of waterborne diseases.



New Washing Station In Gulzar Kapari Village



### Access to Clean Drinking water

For years, the women of Ghanawar Khan Jamali woke before dawn to collect muddy water from broken pumps and canals. The only filtration plant in the village had long stopped working, and clean water became a distant dream. Diarrhea and malaria were common, and daily life was a struggle—especially for mothers.

My children were always sick. I used to spend hours fetching water, and still, it was never safe,” says Zubaida a mother of four.

But everything changed when ACT International, with support from the World Food Programme stepped in. They rehabilitated the old filtration plant with solar panels, restored the water pond, and built a clean cemented irrigation channel. Today, the village has 24/7 access to clean drinking water.

*“Now I fill my pots without waking up at 4 am. My children are healthy. I have time to rest—and to hope,” Zubaida adds with a smile.*

The project didn't just restore water—it restored dignity, health, and life to over 100 households and six nearby hamlets, turning Ghanawar Khan Jamali into a model of resilience and hope.





### Construction of Multipurpose Community Center

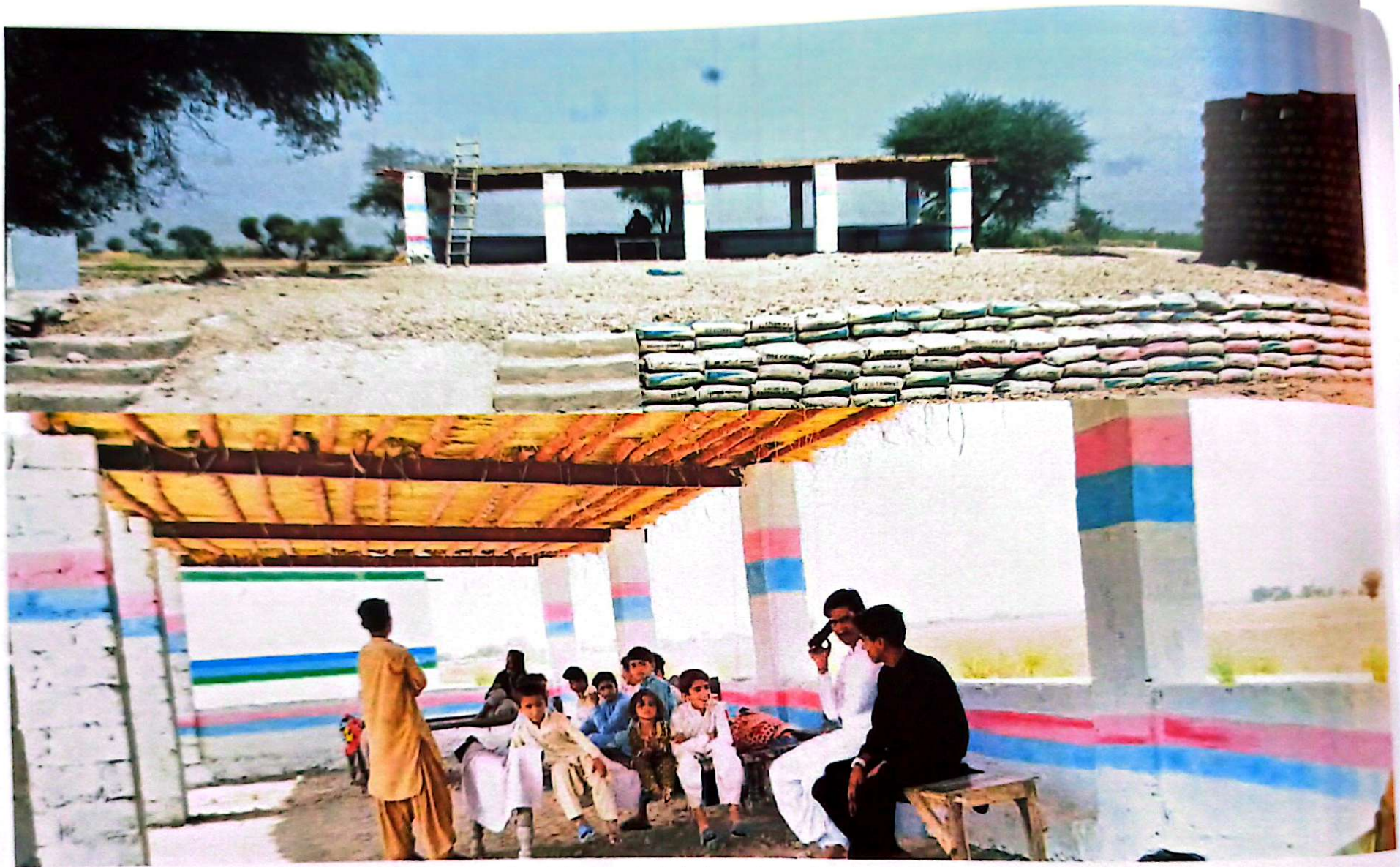
In the underserved village of Mir Hassan Khosa, the ACT team identified a pressing need for a shared space where the community could gather, celebrate, learn, and support one another. In close collaboration with local residents, ACT helped construct a Multipurpose Community Center — a place now used for Eid prayers, weddings, schooling, embroidery work, and mourning gatherings.

This past Eid, for the first time, the community offered Eid Namaz in their own center. The atmosphere was filled with joy and pride. An elder shared, "It felt like a dream come true — we finally have a place of our own."

More than just a building, the center symbolizes unity, dignity, and hope. It now stands as the heart of the village — a place where lives connect and a brighter future begins.







The multipurpose community center, thoughtfully constructed using waterproof sandbags, stands as a symbol of resilience—built not just to meet the community's needs, but to reflect their strength, unity, and hope for a better future.



**Reinforcing Hope – ACT Responds to Vulnerable Embankments**

In a community where the fear of flooding looms large, the ACT team brought not just technical solutions, but peace of mind. During their field assessments, two critical weak points were identified along the embankment walls—one near Umer Jamali Dip and another at Muhammad Bux Siyanch Dip. Without swift action, these weak spots could have posed serious risks to lives and livelihoods.



**With urgency and care, ACT's engineering team moved in. The weak portions were filled with compacted mud and carefully reinforced with stone pitching along the slopes to ensure long-term stability.**



Balochistan's Jaffarabad & Sohbatpur



Building Climate Resilience







For many in the area, this intervention meant more than just a repaired wall—it was a sign that someone was listening, someone cared.



“Every monsoon, we feared losing everything. But this time, ACT stood with us. Now, we feel protected... like someone is finally watching over our homes,” shared an elder from the Muhammad Bux Siyanch community.



Community livelihoods and food security is increased and safeguarded from climate change impacts via diversification.

	Enterprise Development	854
	Livestock, Poultry and Shade Management	1,279
	Climate Smart Agriculture	1,142
	Environment Friendly Trainings	618
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,893</b>

The project enhanced community resilience by building climate-adaptive skills that improved food security, income, and sustainability. Climate-smart practices and stronger market linkages reduced climate risks and supported long-term, resilient livelihoods.









## Threads of Change – Weaving Livelihoods, Dreams, and Dignity through Women's Hands

During the project, over 800 women were trained in enterprise development, learning to calculate costs, select marketable designs, and creatively combine threads and colors to produce crafts that appeal beyond their local communities. They were connected with urban dealers, opening access to wider markets and better income opportunities. Several women created prototypes showcased at a local exhibition, where their talent was admired by many.



## Building Climate Resilience



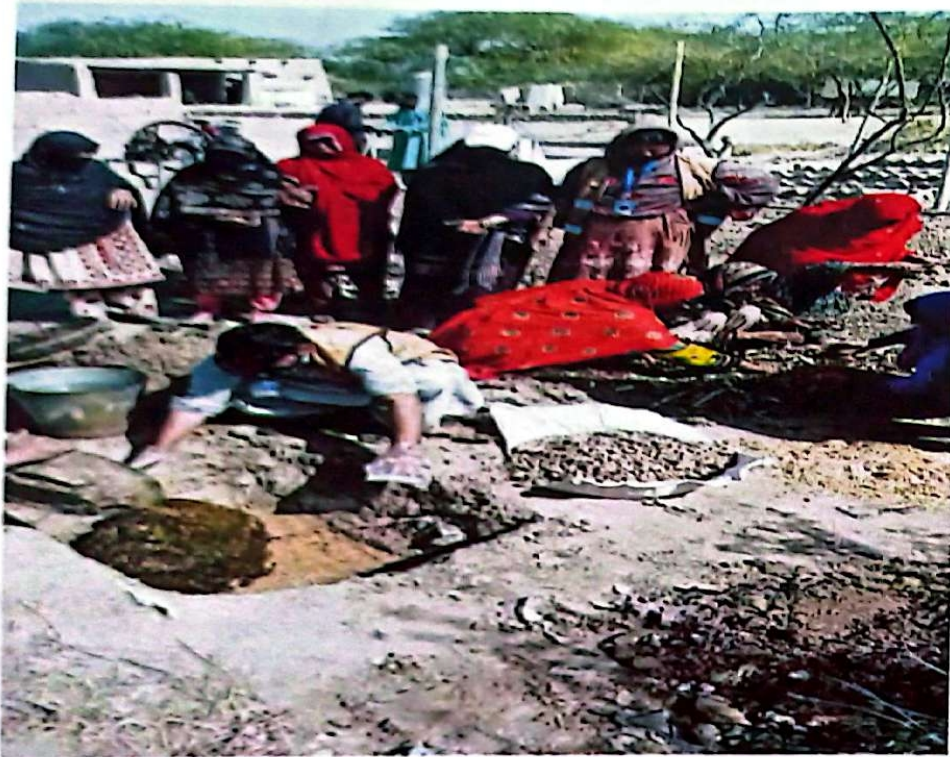
Some have already begun receiving orders, making their first sales and gaining confidence to grow as entrepreneurs. What started as embroidery training has become a journey of empowerment, dignity, and hope.

“I never imagined that something I made with my own hands could travel to another city and earn me respect and income. This project gave me confidence I never knew I had,” shared Rubina, a participant from the project



### Nursery Raising

In Village Hassad Khan, a group of determined women, guided by ACT's Environmental Expert, is transforming their community—one seed at a time. Together, they are building a climate-resilient nursery, learning to turn kitchen waste and local materials into rich organic compost that nurtures both soil and spirit.



Guided by ACT International's Environmental Expert, female beneficiaries are preparing compost for nurseries and kitchen gardens—turning waste into nourishment for a greener future.





From preparing mud with dung and carbon to filling plastic tubes, the female leaders of the community are hands-on at every step. In the final frames, sprouting plants stand as proof—turning their vision for a greener, climate-resilient future into reality.

This initiative is more than a nursery—it's a movement. With every filled tube and planted seed, these women are growing more than greenery. They're cultivating resilience in the face of climate change, sowing hope in barren land, and shaping a future their children can breathe in—cleaner, greener, and full of promise.

**“We never knew our everyday waste could give life to plants,” shared one woman, her hands stained with earth and pride.**



Balochistan's Jaffarabad &amp; Sohbatpur

**Kitchen Gardening- Promoting Self Reliance**

This simple yet revolutionary practice began to reshape daily life. During the reporting period alone, thousands of mud stoves were built by female beneficiaries across the region. With guidance from the Environmental Expert, women began collecting dung ashes and spreading them into their gardens—reducing their reliance on chemical fertilizers while enhancing soil fertility.

*“Before this, we didn’t know dung could be used for more than just burning. Now, I cook meals faster and with less smoke. The ashes I used to throw away are now helping my vegetables grow. This stove has given us more than warmth—it has given us knowledge and self-reliance.” Shared one of the beneficiaries her experiences.*

This initiative not only improved health by reducing indoor air pollution but also empowered women to become stewards of their environment. It’s a testament to how local wisdom, when nurtured through simple innovation, can sow seeds of resilience, dignity, and change.









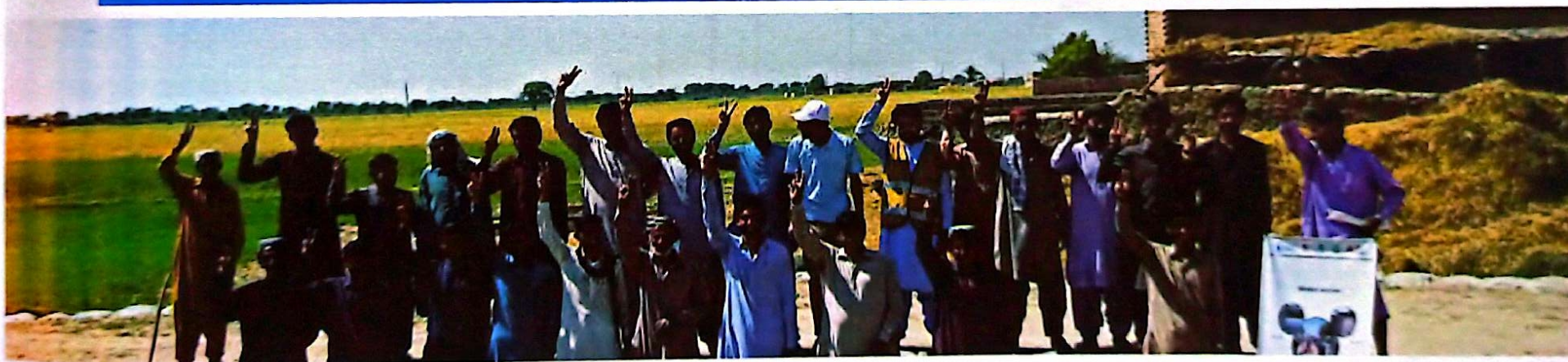
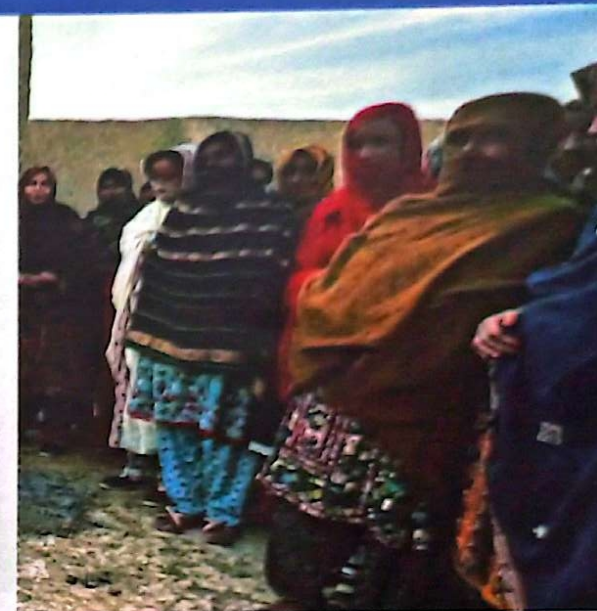
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Encouraging the protection of local ecosystems that support community livelihoods, with communities actively engaged in environmental advocacy, tree planting, pollution reduction, and water conservation.

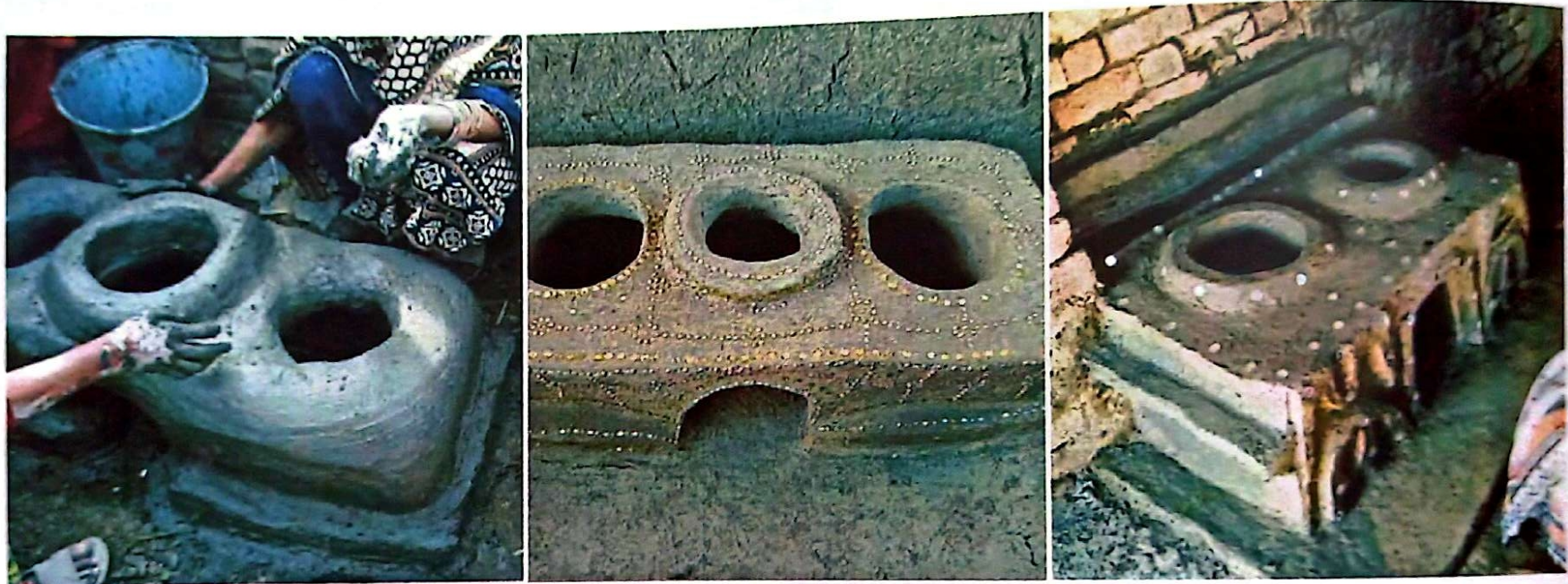
	Achievements	Total Schemes
	Awareness Raising Walks	02
	Community Nurseries	10
	Plantation of Trees	10,000
	Energy Efficient Stove Making	1,000
	Chicken Coops Constructed	400
	Livestock Procured By Women Beneficiaries	1,000





**Energy Efficient Stove Making – Ensuring Health Safety of Women**

This journey reflects true empowerment — equipping women with skills, confidence, and the courage to shape their future. Among the various practical trainings conducted in the community, one stood out not only for its utility but for the powerful transformation it sparked—especially among the women. They were trained to build energy-efficient mud stoves in their homes, using locally available materials. The training emphasized a vital shift: replacing firewood with dung, a reusable resource whose ashes could be used as organic fertilizer for kitchen gardens and small scale crops.



Female beneficiaries built energy-efficient mud stoves, learning to fuel them with dung and wood, reducing smoke and enabling them to cook two to three dishes at once—saving time and protecting their kitchen gardens.







Balochistan's Jaffarabad &amp; Sohbatpur

**Awareness Walk and Tree Plantation**

As part of ACT's ongoing mission to build climate resilience, the team organized an inspiring Awareness Walk that began at Muhbat Shakh Dip and wound through the heart of the local market.

Over 100 community members — including women, children, students, and respected local leaders — joined hands in a heartfelt display of unity and environmental concern.

Carrying colorful placards with messages like "Plant a tree, plant hope" and "Our Earth, Our Responsibility", participants turned heads and sparked conversations. This wasn't just a walk — it was a symbol of collective hope, determination, and the urgent call to action against deforestation and climate change.



At the end of the walk, a young student, eyes bright with excitement, shared: "I planted my first tree today. I'll take care of it like a friend, and one day it will give us shade when the sun is too hot."












Moments like these reflected the true success of the event — not just awareness, but ownership. The walk ended with a collective pledge to protect the planet, with hearts full of hope and hands ready to plant a better tomorrow.





## Communities Contributions Beyond the Project

	Achievements	Total Schemes
	Protection Walls	03
	Water Ponds	52
	Animal Shades	07
	Access Pathways	45
	Washing Stations	03
	Pipe Culverts	05
	Rehabilitation of Multi-Purpose Community Center	03
	New Multipurpose Community Center	01
	Raised Platform	01
	One Houseroom	02
	Eid Gah with sandbags	02
	Rehabilitation of Filter plant	01
	Solar Street lights	05
	<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>



With wisdom in its hands and purpose in its stride, ACT rose to the call—gathering every voice, every hand. From the ashes of loss, it sparked not just recovery, but a movement—uniting communities in strength, weaving resilience into the fabric of their future, so they may stand unshaken when the storms return. Side by side with the ACT team, local communities embraced the challenge, taking bold, transformative steps on their own, igniting a wave of initiative and empowerment



**ACT Ensuring No-one Left Behind**

ACT's inspiring mobilization efforts, rooted in compassion and community solidarity, enabled a person with disability to achieve the dignity of owning a home—turning hope into reality through collective care.

In Goth Muhammad Bux Siyanch, ACT International identified the urgent needs of Ilahi Bux, a person with disability paralyzed on one side, living in harsh, insecure conditions without a proper shelter for his family. Dependent on neighbors for basic protection, Ilahi's situation reflected the deep vulnerabilities faced by many marginalized individuals



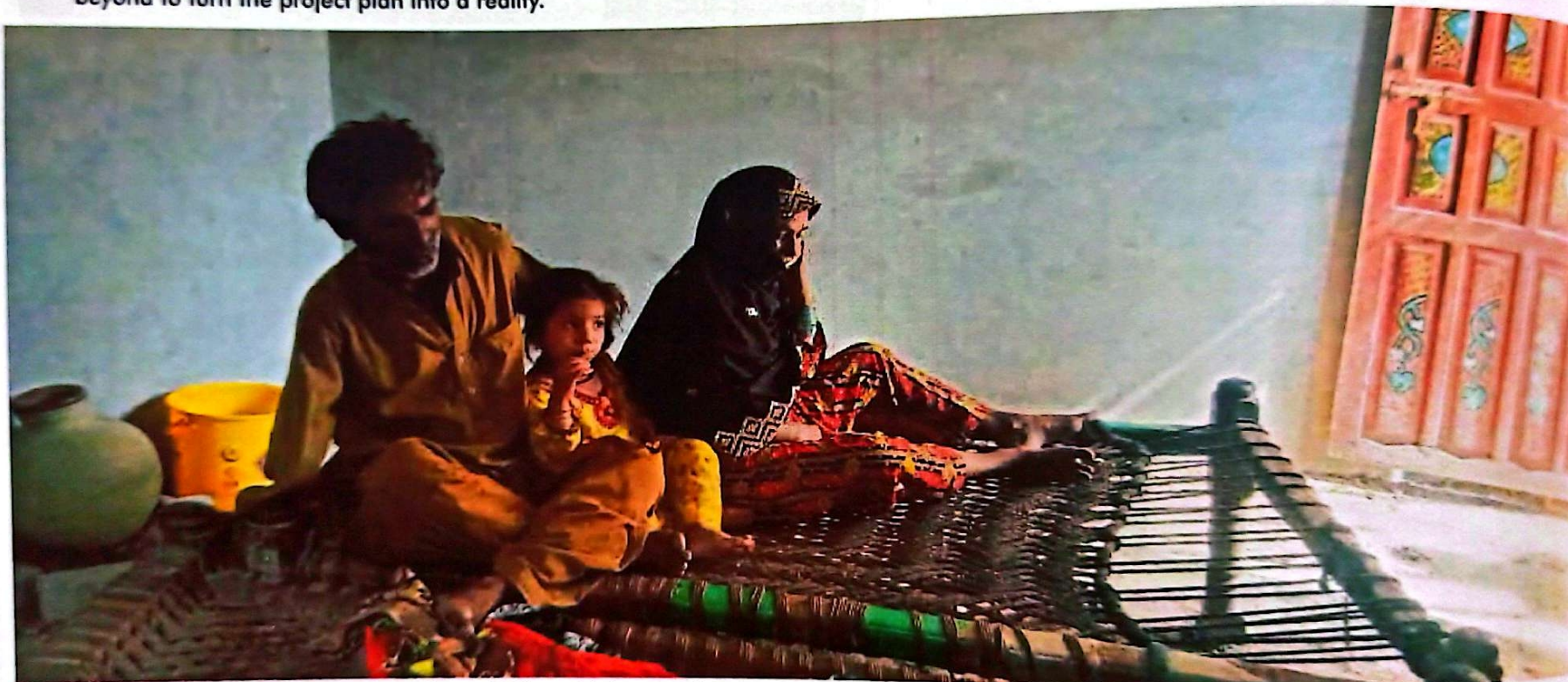


Balochistan's Jafferabad & Sohbatpur

Moved by his condition, the ACT team, with support from local community members, mobilized internal resources to construct a secure, dignified room for Ilahi and his family. The shelter now offers safety, privacy, and relief from extreme weather—bringing newfound stability and peace of mind.

This small yet powerful intervention not only restored Ilahi's dignity and independence but also showcased the strength of community-driven support. It stands as a testament to ACT's commitment to inclusive humanitarian action—ensuring no one is left behind.

The ACT Team worked with full dedication and successfully achieved four months' worth of targets in just three months, going above and beyond to turn the project plan into a reality.



Mr. Ilahi Bux, a disabled resident of Village Muhammad Siyanch, now sits with his family inside their newly built one-room home—a space of dignity, safety, and long-awaited peace.



## Moula Bux, ACT's Site Engineer- Guiding Communities Toward Their Aspirations

From identifying and designing schemes to ensuring technical and environmental feasibility, Moula Bux worked hand-in-hand with villagers. He sat with communities under open skies, listened to their stories, and transformed their challenges into practical solutions.

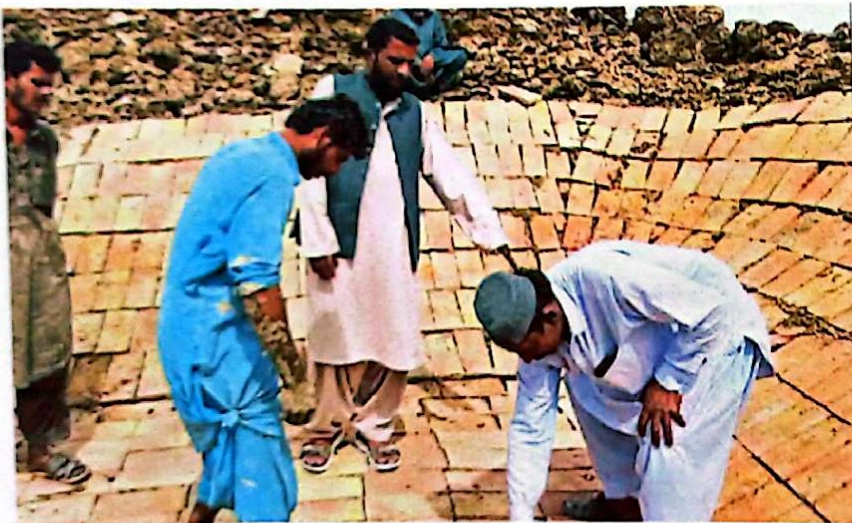
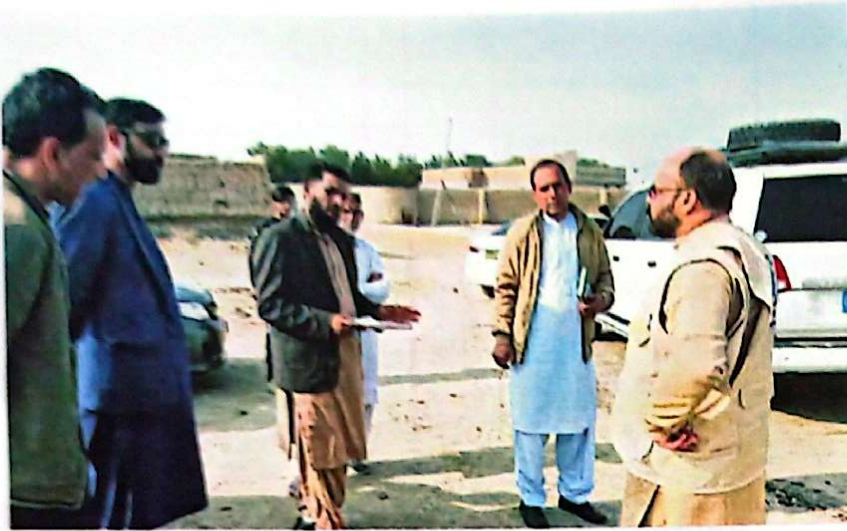
"We didn't know a proper access pathway was possible here," shared a VDC member. "But he made it happen."



Moula Bux points to the waterproof sandbag protection wall as a lifeline for Oughan Khan Jamali Village



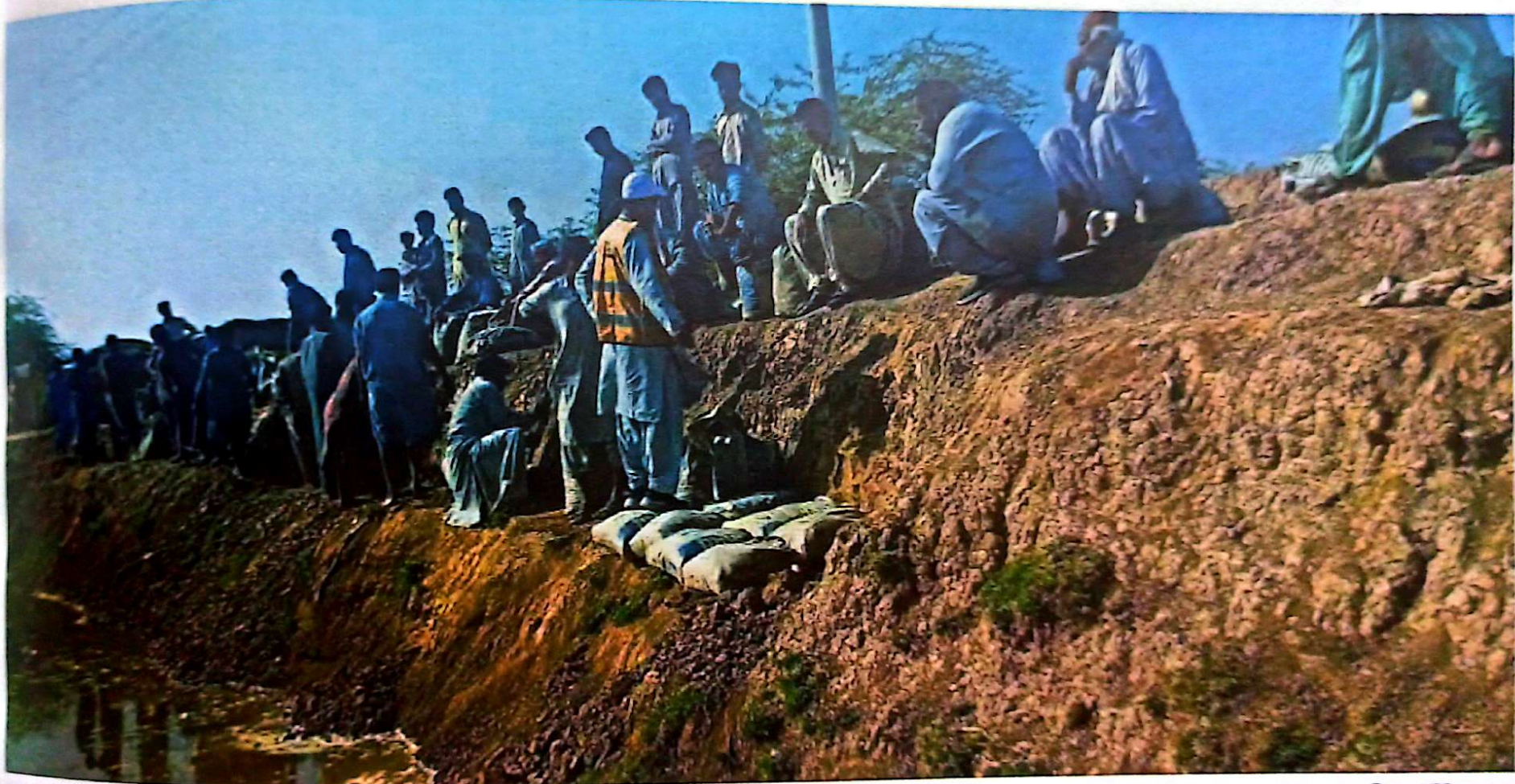
Balochistan's Jaffarabad & Sohbatpur





In flood-prone Oghan Khana Jamali, the sandbag protection wall was his idea—and his motivation moved the village to take part. "He didn't just suggest it—he stood with us and helped us build a safer future," said another VDC leader.

Whether it was coordinating a successful DC visit or ensuring every scheme matched the drawings, his commitment never wavered. Thanks to committed team like him, the project didn't just complete but—it left behind stronger, safer, and more united communities.







Aiming Change For Tomorrow



**AIMING  
CHANGE FOR  
TOMORROW**

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