AGAHE ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Designed & Authored

ASSIGNATION

ASSIGNATIO

Printed By:AGAHE COMMUNICATION
UNIT

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O] WELCOME

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

I trust this message finds you well. As we reflect on the past year, it is with a mix of sorrow and determination that I bring you an update on AGAHE's efforts in the wake of the unprecedented floods that struck Pakistan in 2022.

The sheer scale of the disaster left an indelible mark on our nation's history, resulting in countless casualties and unfathomable impacts that extended beyond our initial comprehension.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our generous donor community. Their unwavering support has been instrumental in our ability to deliver aid when it mattered the most. Without this timely assistance, our impact would have been far less profound.

Looking ahead, I call upon the broader humanitarian community in Pakistan to unite with the government and affected communities in the arduous task of rebuilding lives. Together, we can lay the foundation for a safer, more prosperous future for those who have endured the brunt of nature's fury.

As we embark on this journey, I wish each of you a safe and prosperous year ahead.

May our collective efforts lead to positive and sustainable

changes in the lives of those we strive to serve. With heartfelt regards,

Qazi Azmat Isa Chairperson AGAHE

CEO'S MESSAGE

It brings me immense pleasure to present the annual report of AGAHE for the year 2022-23. This year has been a journey filled with significant learnings, diverse experiences, notable successes, and inevitable challenges. Notably, our nation, Pakistan, confronted various trials, with the focal point being the devastating floods of 2022. In the face of these challenges, we are grateful to Allah Almighty for enabling us to forge partnerships with different government departments and new

Looking ahead, AGAHE has laid the foundation for it strategic plan for the period 2022-2026. This plan encompasses strategic actions geared towards driving meaningful changes.

The accomplishments we highlight in this report are a testament to the tireless efforts, dedication, and commitment of our entire team, partners, and stakeholders.

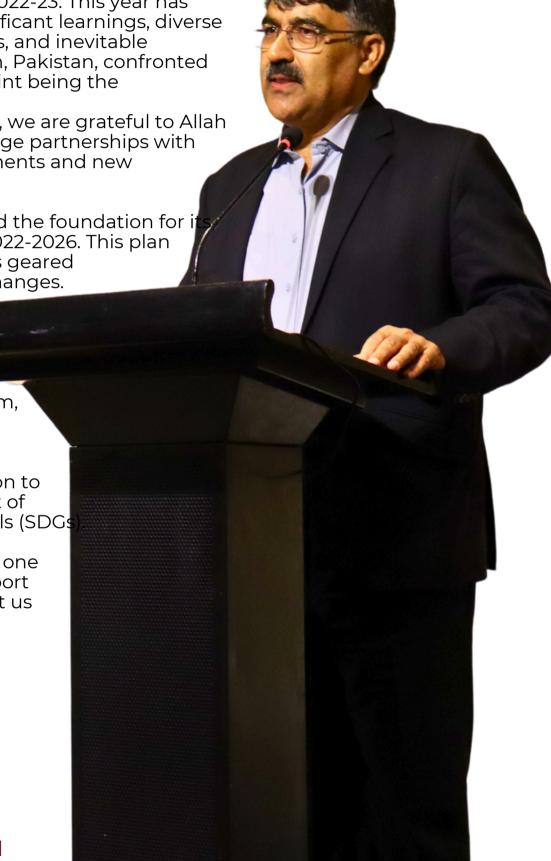
development partners.

I assure you that AGAHE is unwavering in its determination to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs As we continue this journey, I express my gratitude to each one of you for your continued support and collaboration. Together, let us strive for a future where every individual, regardless of their circumstances, can thrive and contribute to the betterment of society.

With sincere regards,

Mubarak Ali Sarwar CEO AGAHE

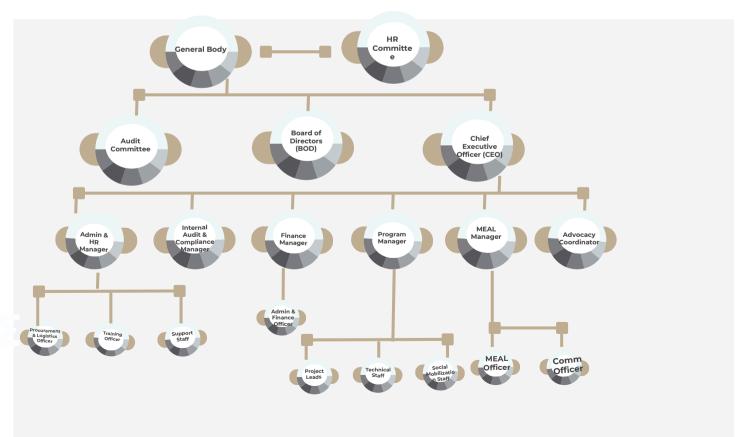
www.agahe.org.pk | Page |



Association for Gender Awareness & Human Empowerment (AGAHE) is non-government organization (NGO) established in 2007 and registered under the Societies Act, 1860. AGAHE is actively working across Punjab with active presence in Lahore, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Sialkot, Muzaffargarh, and Rajanpur. Core thematic areas of AGAHE include Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), Health & Nutrition, Food Security & Sustainable Livelihoods, Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience.



ORGANOGRA







To create an enabling environment for vulnerable segments of society where they can utilize their full potential for improvement in their lives and have equal opportunities to safeguard their rights.

To optimize the intangible resources of individuals, organizations and institutions to achieve maximum efficiency.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AED - Agriculture Extension Department

AGAHE - Association for Gender Awareness & Human Empowerment

BZW - Biofortified Zinc Wheat

CBO - Community-Based Organization

CEO - Chief Executive Officer

CNIC - Computerized National Identity Card

CRM - Complaint Response Mechanism

CSOs - Civil Society Organizations

DC - Deputy Commissioner

FDO – Farmers Development Organization

GAIN - Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

IEC - Information, Education, and Communication

IFL - Interest-Free Loan

KII - Key Informant Interview

MOU - Memorandum of Understanding

M&E - Monitoring and Evaluation

NFI - Non-Food Items

NGO - Non-Government Organization

PCSIR - Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial

Research

PDMA - Provincial Disaster Management Authority

PFD - Punjab Food Department

PHED - Public Health Engineering Department

SBCC - Social Behavioral Change Communication

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

SSI - Sustainable Service Initiative

SWD - Social Welfare Department

UC - Union Council

WASH - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

WHH - Welthungerhilfe





BOARD OF DIRECTORS



SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mr. Qazi Azmat Isa Chairperson



Ms. Bushra Naheed Vice Chairperson

Ms. Hina Noureen Director

Dr. Suhail Saleem Director



Mr. Arshad Mahmood Ch. Director



Dr. Sonia Omer Director



Ms. Kulsoom Iftikhar Director



Mubarak Ali Sarwar Chief Executive Officer



Iftakhar Ahmed Finance Manager



Muhammad Waseem MEAL Manager



Syeda Munazzah Rubab Project Manager / Gender Focal Person



Arbab Khan uman Resource Coordinator



Amir Ishaq Procurement Coordinator



Muhammad Waqas Tahir Manager - WASH



Manager - Agriculture and Nutrition



Adeeb Alam Khan Training Co-ordinator



Muhammad Anser MEAL Coordinator



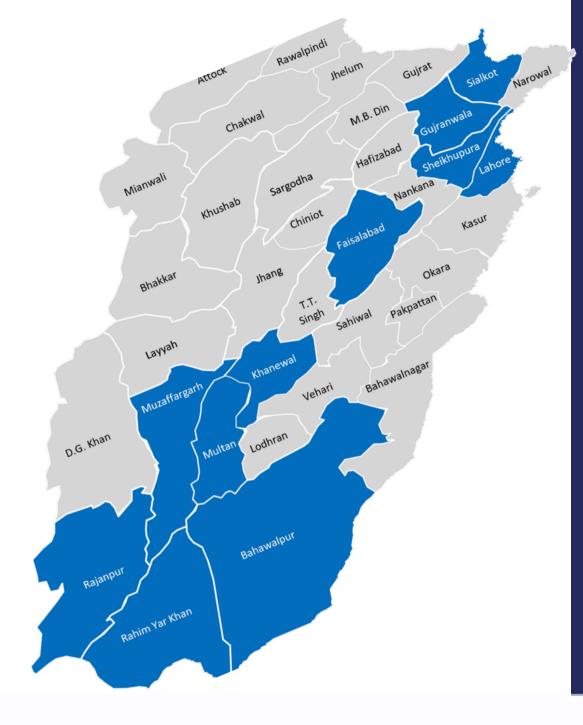
Shumaila Bashir MEAL Officer -South

WHAT WE DO &WHERE WE WORK





COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS/NETWORKS/ALLIANCES

















































































sustainable sanitation



































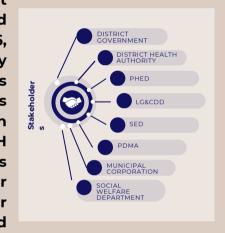




04 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

District WASH Coordination Committee Meeting

Two district WASH coordination committee meetings were conducted by the district government with active support from AGAHE and Welthungerhilfe on August 19, 2022, and March 16, 2023. respectively. Chaired **Deputy** Commissioner Muzaffargarh, these meetings included government officials from various departments and private organizations focused on assessing and rehabilitating dysfunctional WASH infrastructure in the district. The key objectives were to address water filtration plants, toilets for sanitation, and develop a District WASH Plan for service delivery, resource utilization, and monitoring. Subsequently, PHED, facilitated by AGAHE, initiated the rehabilitation of governmentinstalled WASH infrastructure, and AGAHE is currently assisting the District Administration in











Formation of CBOs

Four Union Councils of District Muzaffargarh namely Muradabad, Mondka, Baseera and Jagatpur have been selected based on the WASH vulnerability for implementation of projects Micro (Union Council) Interventions. In these 04 Union Councils 20 Community Based Organizations were formed in 20 revenue villages through Broad Based Community Meetings to assist the implementation of project activities by playing their role and representing the community in decision making process. The CBOs will ensure that the WASH service delivery either under the SSI project or by any other government or private WASH service provider aligns with the specific needs, requirements and preferences of the beneficiaries thus, increasing ownership and ensuring sustainability.











WASH 4987

> FOOD SECURITY, **NUTRITION**

4309

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

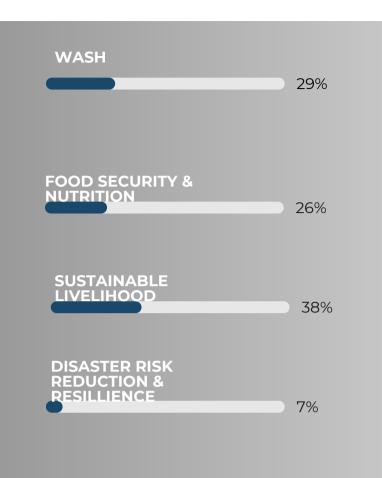
6339

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 1059 & RESILLIENCE

16,694+

BENEFICIERIES

2022-23



Million People in all thematic areas



Visioning Workshop for District WASH Planning

For setting out a clear vision for the District WASH Plan, A 2-day visioning workshop was held in District Muzaffargarh. The workshop reached out to more than 60 participants involving government officials from various departments in the district and key people from private sector organizations. The visioning worship was facilitated by Mr. Bill Twyman from the technical support unit of the SSI Program. The workshop actively involved the participants in group activities and discussions evaluating government departments against 9 building blocks to understand the existing situation and identify key weaknesses and strengths of WASH service delivery system in Pakistan which assisted in setting out a clear vision, outline and areas of focus which needs to be incorporated in WASH Planning.



"Building a Sustainable Future

"Building a Sustainable Future

stakeholders for

and Uniting Stakeholders in

and Uniting Stakeholders

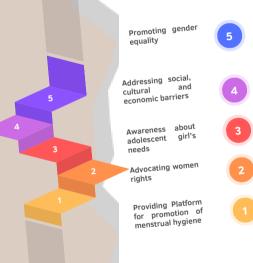
and Uniting



Celebration of Menstrual Hygiene Day (2022)



Menstrual Hygiene Day 2022 was observed on June 8th at Faletti's Hotel Lahore, focusing on the provincial level. The event saw the participation of 50 government officials from various departments and civil society organizations. It aimed to promote menstrual hygiene management, address social and cultural barriers, and advocate for the rights and well-being of women and adolescent girls. The celebration tackled taboos associated with menstruation, emphasized gender equality, and called for policy changes and investments in menstrual hygiene management, especially in schools for adolescent girls. The goal was to ensure that individuals have the necessary resources and support to manage menstruation safely, comfortably, and with dignity.





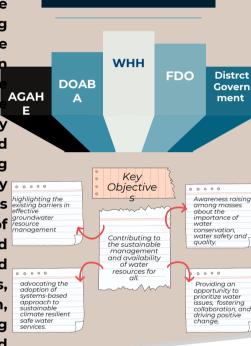




Celebration of World Toilet Day (2022)

World Toilet Day was celebrated on 18th November 2022 in Revenue Village Mubarakpur, Union Council Jagatpur, Muzaffargarh with the purpose of shifting the behavior of the individuals towards proper and safe sanitation practices and to create awareness among the community on deterioration of groundwater quality and increase in WASH disease burden caused by improper sanitation practices. The event, attended by the local population from village Mubarakpur and adjacent villages, showcased the best sanitation practices which can be adopted at household levels to protect human health and the environment and also emphasized on construction of household latrines for safe disposal of wastewater which is otherwise collected in stagnant ponds in villages ultimately leading to WASH diseases and groundwater pollution.

AGAHE and WHH, in collaboration with Doaba foundation and FDO celebrated the World Water Day on 22 March 2022 in District Council Hall Muzaffargarh with the bjective of highlighting the existing barriers in effective groundwater resource management and advocating the adoption of systems-based approach to sustainable climate resilient safe water services. The Commissioner Muzaffargarh and attended by over 200 participants including government officials and community members. The event created awareness among masses about the importance of water conservation, water safety and quality. Overall, the celebration provided an opportunity to prioritize water issues, raising awareness, fostering collaboration, and driving positive change, contributing to the sustainable management and availability of water resources for all.



Collaborative Partners





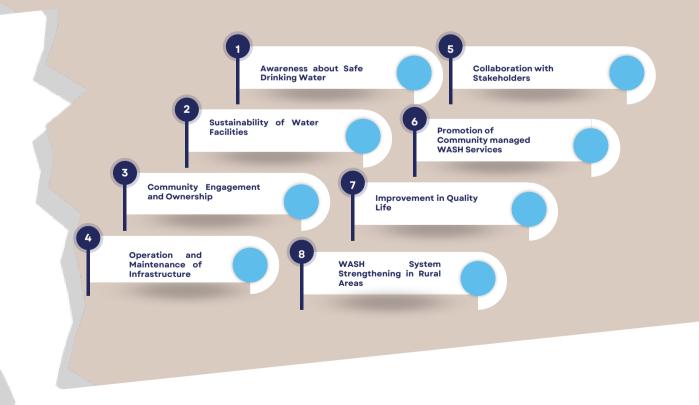


Awareness Seminar on Safe & Clean Drinking Water

Availability and access to safe drinking water and sustainability of water facilities is still a challenge for the local population and WASH service providers. To ensure the delivery of sustainable drinking water services, the community has to play a vital role by taking ownership, operating and maintaining the infrastructure. The awareness seminar on safe & clean drinking water was also conducted with collaboration of LG&CDD in Union Council Muradabad. The ground water quality of the Union Council is deteriorated with high concentration s of TDS and arsenic making it unfit for drinking purposes. The seminar was conducted with the aim of promoting the concept of community managed WASH services by highlighting the importance of Safe & Clean drinking water. A theatre performance, by local actors contributed to grabbing attention and interest of the participants. Overall, the awareness seminar equipped participants with the necessary knowledge and motivation to contribute to the goal of providing safe and clean drinking water to all individuals, thereby enhancing public health and quality of life.

Awareness Seminar on Hygiene Promotion

Maintaining and adopting proper hygienic practices are crucial in overall health and wellbeing, warding off infections and preventing spread of disease. To create awareness regarding the importance of maintaining good hygiene and promoting adoption of good hygiene practices, an awareness seminar was conducted in collaboration with Local Government & Community Development Department in Union Council Baseera District Muzaffargarh. Officials from Health department and Social Welfare shared valuable insights and practical tips on various aspects of hygiene, including handwashing, personal grooming, dental care, and environmental cleanliness. The awareness seminar aimed on educating individuals of all ages about the importance of maintaining proper hygiene habits and the significant impact it has on our overall well-being.



AGAHE Office Equipment Support to Government WASH Service Providers

AGAHE with financial and technical support of WHH conducted a detailed assessment of 8 government offices in Muzaffargarh to identify the office needs in terms of office equipment (Furniture) to improve the overall working environment of the offices. These offices included Deputy Commissioner Office, Planning & Development Board, PHED Division Office, PHED CD Unit, PHED District Water Quality Lab, LG&CDD, Municipal Committee and Social Welfare Department. The assessment was undertaken in consultation with the concerned heads of the respective offices and the identified items were procured and handed over to these respected offices through the Deputy Commissioner Muzaffargarh. This activity resulted in an improved office work environment leading to improved work efficiency and effectiveness. The respective departments ensured the proper use and sustainability of the provided items.

Celebration of Menstrual Hygiene Day 2023

The improper management of menstrual hygiene, coupled with societal taboos, hinders girls' education and attendance in schools. AGAHE celebrated MH Day 2023 at the provincial level, collaborating with the provincial government and private stakeholders to promote menstrual hygiene. The event provided a platform for organizations to share best practices and work collectively towards ensuring hygienic and dignified menstrual management, advocating for women's right to manage menstruation properly. In Muzaffargarh, multiple awareness sessions were conducted in schools and communities to empower women and girls to openly discuss menstruation, break taboos, and address the challenges they face. The sessions emphasized education, promoted best hygiene practices, and encouraged the use of safe sanitary products.

AGAHE Office Equipment Support to Union Councils

AGAHE and WHH also supported Local Government & Community Development Department through provision of office furniture for 4 Union Councils Namely Jagatput, Muradabad, Mondka and Baseera to strengthen the Union Council Offices. The micro-Level interventions of the WASH SSI project are being carried out in these respective Union Councils. The office need was identified through an assessment carried out in consultation with the UC secretaries and the identified items were provided to the LG&CDD department through District Administration.

Creating Responsible Behavior for ODF Sustainability

Despite Muzaffargarh achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in 2019, recent setbacks have led to a resurgence of open defecation. A Sector Dialogue was organized to address the issue, involving WASH service providers, government departments, and sector partners. The focus was on identifying gaps, strategizing to maintain ODF status, and emphasizing the need for affordable sanitation infrastructure and a Behavior Change Communication strategy by AGAHE to improve overall WASH behaviors.

Institutional Roles and Responsibilities



Indequate institutional coordination among WASH service providers and authorities is a key factor contributing to the dysfunctionality of WASH infrastructure. To address this issue, the Muzaffargarh District Administration, PHED, and AGAHE organized a sector dialogue involving government departments and private sector partners. The dialogue emphasized the need to strengthen coordination through regular meetings, water facility mapping, and quality monitoring, aiming to avoid overlaps and enhance context-based service delivery.

Awareness Seminar on Sanitation & Groundwater

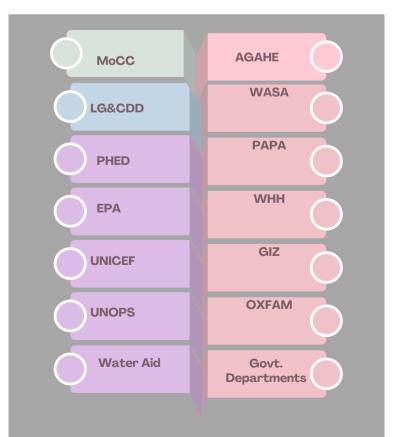
On 28 December 2022, an awareness seminar was conducted by AGAHE in Union Council Jagatpur to address the challenges posed by improper sanitation practices, open defecation, and open disposal of solid waste and domestic wastewater. These practices not only are a potential threat to human health leading to increase in WASH disease burden but also are a major source of ground water contamination, directly degrading the natural resources. The seminar focused on interactive sessions with the participants for encouraging and promoting the adoption of best sanitation practices and promote the concept of safely managed sanitation in rural areas.

National Consultation Workshop

National Consultation Workshop was held on March 21st 2023, with the aim of introducing the WASH SSI program to national stakeholders and provide a platform for consultation on country road map of WASH System Strengthening program to align it with national priorities in WASH sector and commitments under SDG 6. The workshop provided opportunity for knowledge exchange and developing a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to WASH system strengthening in Pakistan. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Bill Twyman from the technical support unit of the SSI program and was attended by high officials from MoCC, LG&CDD, PHED, PAPA, WASA, EPA, other government WASH service providers and WASH experts from various private sector organizations including UNICEF, UNOPS, WHH, GIZ, Oxfam and WaterAid. The consultation resulted in understanding of the possible limitations which need to be addressed during program implementation and several key findings by providing a clear path toward enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of WASH systems.





















Project Launching Ceremony

The project launch ceremony took place on January 25, 2023, in Lahore. The event aimed to introduce key stakeholders to the project's approach, outcomes, methodology, objectives, and timelines. Attendees included representatives from various departments, academia, Punjab Food Departemnt, media, Agriculture Extension Departemnt and organizations. They discussed and recommended strategies for the successful implementation of the project, with a specific focus on the importance of biofortified zinc wheat. A total of 61 stakeholders attended the event, expressing their support and commitment to collaborative efforts for the project's success.

Identification of farmers

AGAHE, in collaboration with Agriculture Extension Departments, registered 12,308 farmers for wheat farming in Multan, Khanewal, and Bahawalpur to promote participation in the biofortified zinc wheat value chain. This initiative ensures inclusivity by registering 12,190 male and 118 female farmers, thereby fostering youth and female involvement in the project.







Training of Farmers on Biofortified Zinc Wheat (BZW)

AGAHE conducted 127 training sessions for registered farmers in Bahawalpur, Multan, and Khanewal. Field assistants and agriculture officers provided technical training on good production practices, the needs of biofortified zinc wheat (BZW), and effective fertilizer and watering methods. AGAHE staff delivered sessions on the importance of BZW cultivation, segregation, and consumption. Over 3,123 farmers, including 42 females, were trained, enhancing their knowledge and skills.



Provision of Interest-Free Loans to Small Farmers::

AGAHE, in collaboration with AGAHE Pakistan, provided 120 interest-free loans to small farmers in Bahawalpur, with the aim of alleviating their financial burden. Eight of the beneficiaries were female farmers, and the timely provision of loans not only prevented the farmers from falling into debt but also positively impacted wheat growth and yield through timely fertilizer applications.

Provision of Equipment Support to Punjab Food Departments:

GAIN provided equipmental support, including 60 weight machines and 65 moisture meters, to Punjab Food Department in Multan, Khanewal, and Bahawalpur under SU BZW. The objective was to facilitate the segregation of biofortified zinc wheat at PFD centers during the crop season. The equipment handover ceremony was held at AGAHE Field Office, Bahawalpur, with Director PFD expressing gratitude for the support.

Media and CSOs Workshop on the Importance of BZW:

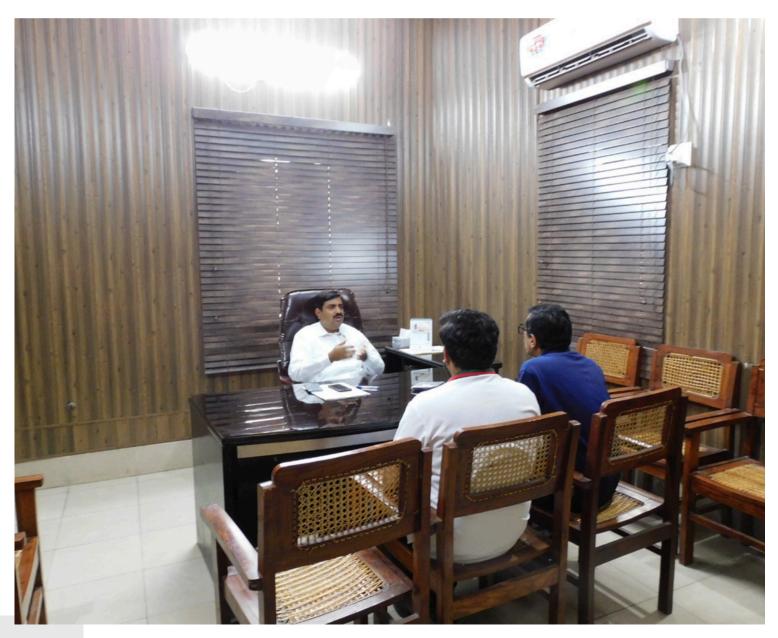
AGAHE, with support from GAIN, organized workshops to raise awareness about biofortified zinc wheat. One workshop for civil society organizations (CSOs) in Multan and media workshops in Multan, Khanewal, and Bahawalpur. A total of 110 media representatives and 54 CSO representatives participated, committing to promote the cultivation, segregation, and consumption of biofortified zinc wheat through their media channels and communities.

Capacity Assessment of Agriculture Extension and Punjab Food Department:

AGAHE conducted a capacity assessment of Agriculture Extension and Punjab Food Department, focusing on Zinc Wheat adaption, segregation, and scaling up. The study aimed to analyze the current wheat procurement system and adoption of BZW, identifying necessary capacity enhancements. Key Informant Interviews were conducted in Khanewal, Multan, and Bahawalpur.

Training of Aggregators and Food Inspectors for BZW Segregation:

In project districts, 45 aggregation centers were established, providing technical support. Six training sessions were organized for aggregators and food inspectors to ensure proper Biofortified zinc wheat (BZW) segregation. The sessions included an introduction to AGAHE, GAIN, and the project, focusing on the purpose of training: segregation at the aggregation level. Aggregators committed to maintaining BZW separation at all stages, ensuring effective implementation.





Technical support to 45 identified aggregators to segregate biofortified zinc wheat at the aggregation levels:

In Multan, Khanewal, and Bahawalpur, 45 aggregation centers were established to ensure biofortified zinc wheat is kept separate from other varieties. Technical support was provided to these centers, including weight machines, sewing machines, tarpaulins, and zinc stickers, to help aggregators segregate the biofortified zinc wheat and maintain accurate records.











Identification of Commercial Processors:

AAGAHE identified 45 commercial processors (chakkies) in Multan, Bahawalpur, and Khanewal to ensure the segregated grinding of biofortified zinc wheat flour from other varieties. This effort aims to make zinc-enriched flour accessible to consumers.

Advocacy Working Group Consultation Meeting on Biofortified Zinc Wheat:

AGAHE, in collaboration with GAIN, facilitated the 1st advocacy working group consultation meeting in Lahore. The objectives included strengthening coordination among stakeholders, promoting biofortified zinc wheat/flour, advocating for policy changes, and building networks with donors to address health, nutrition, and agriculture challenges in Punjab, Pakistan.

Technical support of farmers for reducing postharvest losses of BZW:

Moisture is a major contributor to post-harvest losses in wheat. When wheat is exposed to moisture, it can lead to the growth of mold, fungi, and bacteria, which can spoil the grain and reduce its quality. Polythene covers can help prevent moisture from coming into contact with the wheat, reducing the risk of spoilage. 900 polythene covers were distributed to smallholder farmers in Multan, Khanewal, and Bahawalpur for covering the lids of their drums to reduce postharvest losses.

Development of Social Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) Strategy:

AAGAHE developed a Social Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) strategy from a consultant to address the low intake of biofortified wheat flour and the low sowing of zinc wheat. The strategy involved analyzing challenges, identifying root causes, assessing communication needs, and proposing key SBCC activities for consumers and farmers.









IGNITE Financial Inclusion Project

Project Inception Workshop and Kickoff with Stakeholders:

After hiring staff for the IGNITE Financial Inclusion Project, a virtual inception workshop was held to facilitate direct interaction, presentations, and thematic discussions. This aimed to develop a cohesive understanding of the project's scope, objectives, methodologies, locations, and outcomes. A subsequent kick-off workshop engaged stakeholders to share control procedures and ensure project success through active participation and orientation.

Identification of 5,000 Strivers in all 4 Districts:

The project team identified 5,785 strivers to improve their financial situation and access to financial services. AGAHE's social mobilizers conducted community sessions and meetings to identify potential entrepreneurs and connect them with U-bank, JWS, Mobilink Microfinance Bank, and FFO support. District focal persons explained project details, loan products, and services, reaching all 5,785 strivers. As a result, 4,888 loans were approved.



Face-to-face Capacity Development for Entrepreneurs:

A face-to-face initiative targeted 1,250 micro-entrepreneurs in four districts, aiming to transform their lives through sustainable business gains. Training sessions led by officers covered business and entrepreneurship topics, linking strivers with role models and business leaders. Six sessions were conducted, involving Mobilink Microfinance strivers, focusing on imparting knowledge and skills for effective digital transformation, with 1265 strivers trained in business management, digitalization, and marketing.



Formation of Multi-stakeholder Platform:

AGAHE established a networking platform involving various stakeholders to support strivers. The platform aimed to link strivers with role models, sustain project outcomes, build a peer community, and increase business acumen. It involved key institutions, such as the Women Chamber of Commerce, SME Development Authority, and Mobilink Microfinance Bank.

Exposure Visits and Strengthening Networks:

Business exposure visits facilitated peer-to-peer interactions for 186 strivers, aiding in the formation and strengthening of networks. These visits focused on mutual learning, empowering individuals to improve their lives through shared experiences and tacit knowledge.

Awareness Campaign:

AGAHE launched an awareness-raising campaign employing various mediums, reaching around 100k engagements on social media. The campaign aimed to address market barriers for strivers, especially women, dispel myths about credit, and overcome reservations about financial service providers.

Digital Application of Loan:

To enhance access to financial services, AGAHE hired an IT firm to develop a digital application. The objective was to improve the customer journey, making loans accessible. The plan included developing a 'white-label' application with potential expansion to other Microfinance Providers in Pakistan.





"Flood Humanitarian Response in Affected Districts of Pakistan (Rajanpur)"

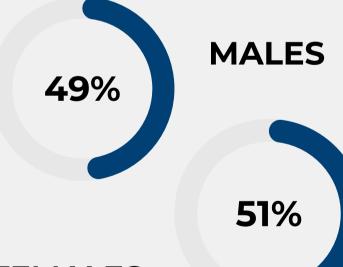


BENEFICIERIES

MALES 524

FEMALES 535

TOTAL 1059



FEMALES





Distribution of NFI Kits and Food Packages:

AGAHE organized the distribution event at a suitable location with the consultation of the community. Tokens were developed and distributed to beneficiaries, and a distribution plan was shared with WHH. The distribution point had Information & Communication Materials, and each beneficiary was verified with CNIC and token number. A registration form ensured acknowledgment of receipt through thumb impressions or signatures. The distribution aimed to provide relief to the selected 150 households.

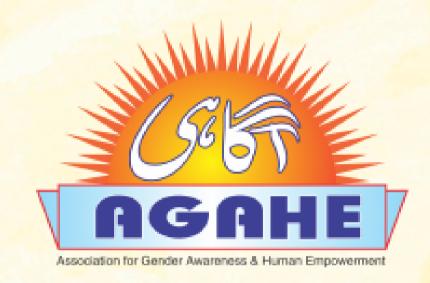
Complaint Response Mechanism Sessions:

AGAHE conducted sessions to educate beneficiaries about the Complaint Response Mechanism (CRM), explaining selection criteria, how to register complaints, and providing contact details for AGAHE and WHH. IEC material on CRM was distributed among participants to improve understanding. The aim was to enhance the knowledge of beneficiaries on CRM and flood precautionary measures.

AGAHE-Coordination Meetings with Stakeholders:

Coordination meetings were held with communities, Community-Based Organizations (CBO), Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), WHH, and other actors in District Rajanpur. These meetings aimed to strengthen coordination, enhance understanding and ownership of stakeholders, and align project interventions with government priorities. Government officials and sector partners were briefed on planned interventions, schedules, target areas, and support details for vulnerable families, promoting effective and complementary emergency response activities.





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