

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Highlights of the Quarter Jan - Mar 2025

SYSTEM STRENGTHENING INITIATIVES

LEARNING EXCHANGE EXPOSURE VISIT ON CLIMATE RESILIENT SUSTAINABLE WASH MODELS



AGAHE and Welthungerhilfe (WHH), organized two Learning Exchange Visit to Muzaffargarh in collaboration with PSPA, PRMSC, and PHED, to showcase innovative and sustainable WASH infrastructure models. 64 senior officials from PSPA, PMDFC, PRMSC, and PHED visited two key projects: a SCADAoperated solarized Water Filtration Plant with a coin vending mechanism in Basti Khari, and a community-led Sewage Treatment Unit in Basti Mondaka. These initiatives, developed with strong community involvement and technical support, aim to ensure long-term sustainability, water conservation, and revenue generation allowing residents to access clean drinking water at just 50 paisa per liter, demonstrating a practical tariff model.

SCALING-UP OF BIOFORTIFIED ZINC WHEAT

EMPOWERING FARMERS THROUGH WOMEN-LED CBO

Three Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) were established in Multan, Khanewal, and Bahawalpur to support local farmers with technical resources and guidance with 98 people participating. What sets these CBOs apart is their leadershipeach is chaired by a woman, promoting female empowerment in agriculture and community development. These platforms now serve as vital hubs for farmers to enhance their practices and livelihoods, encouraging more women to take on leadership roles in agriculture.



RESTORATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES & CLIMATE RESILIENCE

IMPROVING HEALTH: FREE MEDICAL CAMP IN VILLAGE BIKHI WIND



A free medical camp, organized in collaboration with Transparent Hands, was held in Village Bikhi Wind, UC Sehjra, District Kasur. The camp offered essential medical services, including blood pressure, sugar, uric acid, cholesterol tests, and screenings for Hepatitis B and C. The goal was to promote the early detection of health issues, provide treatment for common ailments, and raise awareness about maintaining good health. With 92 male and 129 female participants, the camp helped in the early detection of health problems, offered immediate treatment, and educated the community on preventive health measures, ultimately improving overall health outcomes.



G CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Reimaging WASH & Climate Resilience

System Strengthening

Initiative

Promotion of Climate-Resilient and Sustainable WASH Infrastructure Models

AGAHE Welthungerhilfe (WHH). and supported by the Punjab Rural Municipal Services Company (PRMSC), successfully hosted an event on the "Promotion of Climate-Resilient and Sustainable WASH Models." Infrastructure The brought together senior officials and key WASH stakeholders to discuss climateresilient solutions. AGAHE and WHH's innovative Water Filtration Plant (WFP) and Sewage Treatment (STU) Unit models were highlighted for their address infrastructure potential to for challenges and were praised raised The also replication. event awareness about WASH sustainability includina climate change, issues. operational inefficiencies. tariff gender and disparities, collection. emphasizing the need for collaboration institutionalize sustainable approaches and contribute to SDG 6.







Advancing WASH and Climate Resilience Through System Strengthening across Punjab

AGAHE and WHH, in collaboration with the Punjab Rural Municipal Services Company (PRMSC), organized a series of one-day training workshops on WASH Strengthening and Climate Resilience for senior officials from various districts of Punjab including PSPA Officials, LD & CDD Officials, and PRMSC Officials. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of officials in understanding the principles of the System Strengthening Approach, WASH system building blocks, and the integration of climate resilience. Ms. Kanwal Chudhary, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment and Climate Change, praised the efforts of AGAHE and WHH in supporting the Government of Punjab's WASH reforms, stressing the importance of resilience in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. This capacitybuilding initiative marks a key step towards ensuring achieving SDG 6 and sustainability of water and sanitation services in the province.

Capacitated 125 officials

Strengthening WASH Systems in Muzaffargarh

A district-level coordination meeting was held, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Ms. Qurat-ul-Ain Memon. The meeting was attended by key officials including ADC Finance & Planning Ms. Anam Hafeez, ADCG Mr. Yousaf Cheena, and Ms. Hina Javed from the Women Protection Authority. The purpose was to review progress in WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) across the district and discuss future directions. AGAHE presented an overview of the "Upscaling WASH System Strengthening Program" and its alignment with government efforts. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated contributions of AGAHE and WHH, reaffirming the administration's support and emphasizing the collective commitment to improving community wellbeing and achieving SDG targets, with a vision to make Muzaffargarh a model district for WASH interventions.





Strengthening Monitoring Mechanism for a Cleaner Punjab

AGAHE and WHH, in collaboration with the Local Government & Community Development Department (LG&CDD), conducted a provincial consultation workshop to refine the monitoring framework for the Suthra Punjab Programme. By incorporating valuable input from local government officials, the initiative aims to enhance implementation and improve WASH conditions across Punjab, reinforcing efforts toward achieving SDG 6.







AGAHE conducted an end-term evaluation with the technical support of WHH and IRC through extensive consultative sessions, coordination meetings, FGDs, and KIIs across macro, meso, and micro levels to assess the project's overall impact. Mr. Stef joined the 4-day field visit, engaging directly with stakeholders. In the debriefing, he emphasized the strengthened coordination at all levels, which has enhanced the project's measurable outcomes, and offered strategic recommendations to further amplify its effectiveness.

Strengthening MHM Systems in Punjab

provincial MHM working group in Punjab was revitalized with strong support from School Education Department resulting in the restructuring of the group for broader stakeholder inclusion, developing a 2-5 year Punjab MHM Action Plan, and province-wide approval of Girl-Friendly Toilets. A Technical Committee has also been established to refine educational and training materials, paving the way for sustainable, systemic improvements in menstrual hygiene management. Signifying a collaborative step towards addressing MHM challenges and achieving sustainable, impactful change.



Clean Water for All

To improve access to safe drinking water, solar-powered RO filtration plants with coin vending machines were installed, offering clean water through an affordable model. and sustainable Complemented by awareness sessions and the distribution of over 800 Jerry Cans to vulnerable households. this blends with initiative technology community engagement-driving real progress toward achieving SDG 6.





Impact Story

Ripples of Change: Saba's Journey to a Healthier Future

In the remote village of Basti Khari in Muzaffargarh, 16-year-old Saba has sparked a grassroots movement for better health through WASH awareness. After receiving training from AGAHE school-level WASH program, she transformed her knowledge into action-leading hygiene sessions, promoting safe water storage, and encouraging clean habits across her community. Her efforts have led to a visible decline in waterborne diseases, improved school attendance, and healthier families. Saba's journey from student to WASH Champion shows how empowered youth can lead lasting change, turning simple awareness into a powerful force for community well-being.

ZEROHUNGER

GGS



Health & Nutrition

Scaling Up of Biofortified Zinc Wheat



Advancing Zinc Wheat Through Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

To promote better nutrition and tackle global challenges like malnutrition, zinc deficiency, and food insecurity, AGAHE organized a series of engaging Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) workshops across Multan, Khanewal, and Bahawalpur. These dynamic gatherings brought together over 120 participants, including researchers. farmers. entrepreneurs, aggregators, government and officials. private sector representatives. The workshops spotlighted the benefits of biofortified zinc wheat (BZW), emphasizing its crucial role in improving human health and nutrition. Experts shared impactful insights on zinc's importance, while discussions focused on boosting the adoption, segregation, and for BZW. The demand event introduced stakeholders to AGAHE and GAIN's mission of building healthier, more resilient communities through sustainable





Promoting Biofortified Zinc Wheat at the Cholistan Jeep Rally

AGAHE. with technical and financial support from GAIN, set up a vibrant awareness stall at the Cholistan Jeep Rally in Bahawalpur. The stall drew over 1,500 visitors-including farmers. students. women, and government officials-and highlighted the powerful role of Biofortified Zinc Wheat (BZW) in combating zinc deficiency, malnutrition. Through engaging discussions and informative materials. attendees learned how BZW supports immune health, child development, and community nutrition. The initiative sparked strong interest in BZW, with many expressing a desire to purchase it, while the participation of officials, including the Commissioner of Bahawalpur, helped build trust and strengthen market linkages for future adoption.

Training CRPs and Farmers on BZW Segregation

Orientation sessions for Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and lead farmers in Multan, Khanewal, and Bahawalpur were organized to promote awareness about zinc deficiency and the importance of biofortified zinc wheat (BZW). These sessions trained 172 participants—including farmers and field assistants—on proper segregation techniques at both the field and storage levels to preserve BZW's nutritional value. By equipping CRPs and lead farmers with practical knowledge, the initiative empowered them to act as community educators, ensuring wider adoption of BZW practices. This effort not only strengthens the supply chain but also supports sustainable agriculture and healthier diets in farming communities.







Training and Support for Aggregators in Multan, Khanewal, and Bahawalpur

AGAHE, conducted training sessions for Multan, aggregators across Khanewal. Bahawalpur (10 male participants in each district), focusing on the importance and process of segregating Biofortified Zinc Wheat (BZW). During these sessions, aggregators were trained on best practices to maintain the purity of BZW throughout the supply chain. AGAHE also provided hands-on technical support to help aggregators implement effective segregation techniques at aggregation levels, and supported the establishment of new BZW aggregation centers in the targeted districts. This initiative has strengthened the supply chain by ensuring BZW remains segregated, enhancing its nutritional value, supporting improved market access, promoting better farming practices, and contributing to food security and healthier diets for consumers.



Success stories

Turning the Tide: Local BZW Seed Production for a Sustainable Future

Muhammad Faisal, a semi-subsistence farmer from village 23BC, Bahawalpur, struggled to access quality wheat seed due to high prices and limited availability, leading to poor yields. Under the Scaling up of Biofortified Zinc Wheat project, AGAHE formed a Community-Based Organization (CBO) in his village to promote local seed multiplication and reduce reliance on seed companies.

With training and support from AGAHE—including BZW seed, hermetic bags, and a seed grader at a CBO level—Faisal cultivated 3 acres of BZW in 2023–24. From 1 acre of AGAHE—provided BZW seed, he harvested 52 mounds, a better yield than his regular wheat.

OrHe stored 45 mounds of BZW in hermetic bags and expanded to 10 acres in 2024-25 using his own BZW seed. He also sold 30 earned mounds and a good the compared to wheat sold consumption purposes, and he plans to store the BZW yield from one acre as seed again for the next wheat season.

"Growing Biofortified Zinc Wheat has changed the way I farm. I now produce my own BZW seed, get better yields, and earn more. To support local food security and sustainable agriculture, I've also started selling BZW seed locally—helping other farmer's access quality seed at affordable prices while promoting the production and use of nutrient—rich Biofortified Zinc Wheat.



13 CLIMATE ACTION



1 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Disaster Risk Resilience & Climate Change

Restoring Social Services & Climate Resilience

Community Management and Skills Training (CMST) for Community and Village Organizations

A series of one-day Community Management and Skills Training (CMST) for community and organizations in Village Attari, aimed to strengthen local capacities in planning, resource management, and organizational development through interactive sessions. A total of 111 males and 14 females, gained valuable skills in resource management, team collaboration, and problem-solving. They also learned to use Karwai Registers for documenting activities, enhancing transparency and accountability. This initiative contributed to improving the organizational skills of local members, fostering better decisionmaking, and strengthening community structures for more effective and transparent operations within the village organizations.

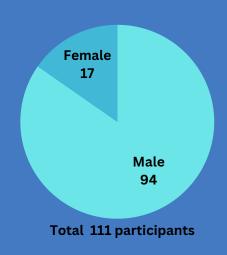






Building Resilience: Empowering Villages with Disaster Risk Management Skills

Community–Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) trainings was held in Village Attari and Rohela Tejeka to equip local leaders and residents with essential skills for managing disaster situations. The training aimed to enhance the village's disaster preparedness and resilience by focusing on empowering local leaders with effective disaster response techniques. With 94 male and 17 female participants, the training strengthened the community's overall preparedness and self-sufficiency, enabling them to better handle potential disasters.





Strengthening Healthcare Response: HBDRM Training at BHU Sehira

A series of Health-Based Disaster Risk Management (HBDRM) training was held at BHU Sehjra to equip healthcare providers with the knowledge and skills needed to manage disaster situations effectively. The training focused on hospital-based disaster preparedness, aiming to enhance the capacity of local healthcare facilities in responding to emergencies. With 21 male and 22 female participants, the training improved the ability of healthcare providers to offer better care for patients during crises, strengthening the overall response capacity of local healthcare facilities.







School-Based Disaster Risk Management (SBDRM) Training

School-Based Disaster Risk Management (SBDRM) training sessions were conducted at GBHS, GGHS Attari and Rohela Tejeka to equip both school staff and students with essential disaster preparedness skills. The training aimed to enhance each school's capacity to effectively manage respond to disaster situations. with a total of 93 boys and 93 girls the sessions focused improving the schools' disaster preparedness and contributed strengthening the overall resilience of the community by ensuring better-informed school personnel and students.

Voices from the Field

Farmer's Leadership Brought Clean Water to a Flood-Stricken Village

In the flood-prone village of Jaimil Bazide Ka, nestled along the Sutlej River, farmer Muhammad Imran emerged as a community leader determined to bring change. As an active member of the Ujala Foundation, he witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of annual floods—damaged infrastructure, contaminated water, and widespread illness. Through the Restoring Social Services and Climate Resilience Project, Imran and fellow villagers received training from AGAHE,

with support from PPAF, empowering them to tackle local challenges. Identifying clean drinking water as a top priority, Imran led a successful initiative to install a water filtration plant. This simple yet powerful step drastically reduced disease and improved lives, showcasing how grassroots leadership, when paired with external support, can transform vulnerable communities.



Localized Multi-Hazard Anticipatory Action Facility Pakistan (Drought-2024)

KITCHEN GARDENING AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT TRAINING & SEED DISTRIBUTION

AGAHE team conducted a series of training sessions on kitchen gardening for 300 of the most vulnerable women suffering from the impacts of drought, from Union Councils Derawar and Merana, District Bahawalpur. focused practical training on approaches to managing drought and highlighted the benefits of gardening in building resilient households. The sessions covered plot preparation, the of farmyard natural use manure, substances as pest repellents, integrated pest management techniques for kitchen gardening. Additionally, the trained women will be provided with seven types of seeds to support their gardening efforts. A comprehensive training manual, developed by AGAHE with the technical assistance of WHH, was also provided for future reference, empowering these women to adopt sustainable solutions for a brighter future.

LIVESTOCK DEWORMING AND VACCINATION CAMP

AGAHE, with support from the Livestock Department Cholistan, organized deworming and vaccination camps with the support of the Livestock and Dairy Development Department in Merana and Derawar, benefiting over 3,000 small animals and more than 680 large animals.



IT SUPPORT FOR PDMA PUNJAB

AGAHE, in collaboration with WHH & GFFO, handed over IT and support equipment to PDMA, Punjab. The provided equipment aims to enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities, marking a significant step towards strengthening technological resilience in disaster management.





REHABILITATION OF UNDERGROUND WATER STORAGE FACILITIES

Access to clean and safe drinking water is a fundamental human right, essential for and well-being. dignity, health. intervention ensured sustainable water management, improved the quality of life for communities in Cholistan, and reduced water contamination. AGAHE, with the financial of WHH and support coordination with the Cholistan Development Authority, the Office of the Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur, and the technical support of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab, rehabilitated two underground storage facilities (Kunds) in the union councils of Darawar and Merana Cholistan with the storage facilities of over 1 lakh gallons of water. As part of the rehabilitation. AGAHE installed powered water pumps to prevent water contamination and provided drinking water facilities for animals.



PLANTING HOPE: MUNEER MAI'S JOURNEY TOWARD A BETTER TOMORROW

After losing her husband, 48-year-old Muneer Mai was left to support two children with no stable income. One child attends school while the other works daily wages, and Muneer struggles to meet their basic needs. With support from WHH, she began kitchen gardening, which now provides nutritious food and a small income through selling surplus produce. Despite ongoing challenges, Muneer remains hopeful, determined children's secure to her education and build a better future for them.





Celebrating International Days

Honoring Equality: Seminar on World Day of Social Justice

A seminar was held to commemorate the World Day of Social Justice, emphasizing the importance of equality and the empowerment of marginalized groups. The seminar aimed to raise awareness about social justice issues, advocating for equal rights and opportunities for all. With 147 male and 78 female participants, the event fostered a deeper understanding of social justice and encouraged active advocacy for marginalized communities within the society.



Celebrating International Women's Day Across Districts

AGAHE, with support from WHH, GAIN, and PPAF, commemorated International Women's Day 2025 across multiple districts through its ongoing projects on System Strengthening, Social Services Restoration, Climate Resilience, and Biofortified Zinc Wheat.





Under the theme "Accelerate Action for ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment," events were held in Muzaffargarh, Multan, and Lahore in collaboration with district governments, Women Protection Authority, and the Social Welfare Department. Highlights included panel discussions featuring policymakers, civil society, and academia, as well as inspiring stories from entrepreneurs to empower others. In Lahore, a high-level celebration attended by Parliamentary Secretary Ms. Kanwal Liaqat and other notable figures emphasized the role of women in climate action, water conservation, and societal transformation. The events collectively reinforced AGAHE's commitment to promoting gender equality, empowering women at all levels, and driving progress towards a just and inclusive future.

Commemorating World Water Day 2025

Pakistan Saaf Pani Authority, in collaboration with AGAHE and WHH, marked World Water Day 2025 with the theme "Glacier Preservation, Water Governance, and System Advancement." The event gathered key stakeholders from government, academia, development partners, and the private sector across Punjab to discuss water sector reforms, climate resilience, and equitable access to safe water. A panel featuring sector experts addressed discussion systemic challenges and proposed actionable solutions to advance SDG 6. AGAHE showcased a actionable climate-resilient Water Filtration Plant with integrated O&M for long-term sustainability. The highlighted the unified commitment toward impactful and sustainable water governance in Punjab.



Media Coverage

Support to PDMA



Express Forum



World Day of Social

Justice



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International Women's Day





World Water Day 2025









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