

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Strengthening women peasant and rural workers' resilience through local governance in Benazirabad and Mirpurkhas Districts of the Sindh province of Pakistan

Submission Date: June 2026

Implemented by: Hari Welfare Association (HWA)

Project Duration: July 2025 – June 2026

Country: Pakistan

This project was implemented as part of a larger project named Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance for Climate Resilience in Asia (SIDRRA), co-implemented by a consortium led by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN), and Duryog Nivaran.



Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance for Climate Resilience in Asia (SIDRRA)





Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance
for Climate Resilience in Asia SIDRRA
Project Partner's Subgrant Project Progress Report (Consolidated)

Report NO: Con/25

1. Executive Summary

The project was implemented in four Union Councils: Mureed Khan Zardari and 60 Mile in District Shaheed Benazirabad, and Dolatpur and Khumbri in District Mirpurkhas. Through these interventions, the project directly benefited 300 individuals and indirectly reached an additional 164 beneficiaries.

The project was commenced with the recruitment of project staff in accordance with HWA's Human Resource policies and procedures. A comprehensive baseline survey was conducted to assess the existing Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) related to disaster preparedness and climate resilience within the target communities. The survey also facilitated the identification and mapping of key stakeholders for project engagement.

To support capacity-building interventions, a training manual was developed and utilized during community training sessions. In addition, a District Disaster Response Framework (DDRF) was developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders to strengthen disaster preparedness and coordination mechanisms at the district level.

Under the project, total of **12** one-day Community Capacity Building Training Workshops were conducted, reaching community members with key information and practical skills related to Disaster Preparedness, Early Warning Systems, and Livestock Protection.

To strengthen practical disaster response capacities, **12** village-level Disaster Simulation Drill Workshops were organized. These drills enabled community members to practice emergency response procedures, test preparedness plans, and improve coordination during potential disaster events.

Furthermore, six Stakeholder Coordination Meetings were conducted, bringing together community representatives and government officials to discuss, review, and strengthen the District Disaster Response Framework (DDRF). These meetings promoted collaboration between local authorities and communities and contributed to improved disaster risk management planning at the district level.

At the conclusion of the project, a Final Project Evaluation was conducted to comprehensively assess the project's achievements, outcomes, and

	overall impact. The evaluation also included a comparative analysis of endline findings against the baseline study. Key Challenges Faced During the Implementation of the Project; • DRR was new subject for many communities. • Low literacy among community members, especially women • Limited availability of government officials, affecting coordination and timely engagement. • Unexpected disruptions, such as undeclared holidays and strikes. • Community engagement with seasonal crops, such as harvesting of the crop and daily wages for labour work.
Sub-grant Project Name:	Strengthening women peasant and rural workers' resilience through local governance in Benazirabad and Mirpurkhas Districts of the Sindh province of Pakistan
Reporting Period:	15th July, 2025 – 15th June, 2026
Project Location:	District Shaheed Benazirabad and Mirpurkhas, Sindh, Pakistan
Name of Reporting Person:	Manzoor Ali Soomro
Date of Report submission:	30th June 2026
2. Progress Against Workplan & Key Outcomes:	1. A baseline survey was conducted which understand KAP and identify stakeholders. 2. Disaster response framework written/developed. 3. Training manual prepared and used for the community training workshops. 4. 12 One Day Community Capacity Building Training Workshop were conducted on Disaster preparedness, Early Warning System and Livestock Protection. 5. 12 Disaster Simulation Drills training workshops conducted at village level. 6. 6 Stakeholder Coordination meetings were organized between communities and government officials on District Disaster Response Framework (DDRF). 7. A Final Project Evaluation assessment conducted to comprehensively assess the project's achievements, outcomes, and overall impact.
2.1 Key Activities & Progress (A summary of the main tasks completed)	<u>HIRING OF A PROJECT TEAM</u> At the commencement of the project, a project team was hired as per the HR policy and one day orientation session was arranged in which nature of project, key activities, implementation methodology, target areas,

population, roles and responsibilities and organizational HR policies were briefed too.

BASELINE STUDY

A consultant was hired for the baseline survey; meeting was held with him to review the project documents and discuss the data collection tools and a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative techniques was approved. A study was carried out through face-to-face interviews with community members, government officials, as key informant interviews (KIIs), and focus group discussions (FGDs) with communities in 6 target villages across Shaheed Benazirabad and Mirpurkhas districts.

DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT DISASTER RESPOSNE FRAMEWORK

The disaster framework was an important activity under the project, for this a consultant was hired who was earlier briefed on the project's background, the intended use of the framework within project activities, and the desired outcomes. Relevant findings from the baseline study were also shared with the consultant to provide context on the current local situation. Additionally, the framework document has been utilized during stakeholder meetings to guide discussions and planning.

PERPARATION OF TRAINING MANUAL

A comprehensive training manual was developed to guide the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training activities. The content of the manual was informed by the findings of the baseline survey, ensuring that it was context-specific, responsive to identified community needs, and aligned with existing knowledge gaps. The manual served as the primary resource for the delivery of all 12 planned training workshops, which focused on strengthening community capacities in disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and livestock protection.

ONE DAY COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING WORKSHOP ON DRR

A total of **12** training workshops were conducted at the village level. Overall, **300** participants attended these workshops, including peasant women, rural workers, **108** members of religious minority communities, and **1** person with disabilities. Each training session was attended by **25** participants, ensuring effective interaction and participatory learning.

The key objectives of the DRR trainings were to strengthen the capacity of peasant women and rural workers on early warning systems and community level response mechanisms; enhance women's knowledge on livestock protection and household preparedness, raise awareness about

the role of local governance and community responsibility in disaster risk reduction, and encourage participatory learning and collective decision making among women leaders.

Local language trainers were engaged to ensure effective communication, better participant engagement, and stronger contextual understanding of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) concepts. The community played a vital role in the participant selection process through community meetings, ensuring that all participants were selected according to the set criteria.

Each workshop was conducted as a full-day training session. Trainers adopted a participatory approach, closely following the content of the training manual developed under the DN Project. The key methods included;

- Participatory group discussion on past disaster experiences,
- Flood response, evacuation, and early warning role plays and simulations
- Problem tree analysis identification of local vulnerabilities
- Community preparedness planning through brainstorming sessions
- Case studies and real-life examples from Sindh
- Practical demonstrations of livestock safety and emergency preparedness
- Question answer and reflection sessions
- Utilization of visual aids and local language materials

Participants were actively engaged in group activities, during which they prepared and delivered group presentations on key topics, including types of floods, problem tree analysis, community vulnerabilities, emergency preparedness, livestock protection, early warning systems, and emergency contact numbers.

The project team remained present throughout the training workshops to support both community members and trainers, ensuring smooth facilitation and effective coordination.

Additionally, HWA's MEAL team observed the training sessions and administered pre- and post-tests during each workshop to assess changes in participants' knowledge and measure the overall effectiveness of the trainings.

SIMULATION DRILLS

12 simulation drills were conducted in the both districts through a partnership with **Rescue 1122**, a government agency responsible for

emergency and disaster response in the province. The activity aimed to enhance community awareness, preparedness, and emergency response capacity, particularly among vulnerable groups. By simulating real-life disaster scenarios such as floods, earthquakes, and fire incidents, the drill provided participants with practical exposure to situations that pose serious risks to lives and livelihoods.

These activities were focused on demonstrations, and practical exercises. Participants were trained in essential life-saving skills including Evacuation Procedures, First Aid, CPR, Fire Safety, and basic rescue techniques. Trainers guided participants through step-by-step demonstrations, followed by practical implementation, enabling them to build confidence and improve decision-making during emergencies.

The drills were conducted in 12 villages, the activity engaged a total of 319 participants, with a strong representation of women (275 participants), along with inclusion of 120 individuals belonging to minority communities and 5 persons with disabilities. The drill not only improved participants' technical skills but also encouraged knowledge sharing, collective action, and community-level preparedness through local governance mechanisms.

Participants learned how to act during disasters and became more confident in dealing with such events. The activity also encouraged people to work together and support each other in times of need.

Overall, the drills helped community members become better prepared for future emergencies and enabled them to play an active role in keeping their communities safe and resilient.

HWA's MEAL team observed the various drills in the both districts in order to ensure the quality, inclusive and effective participation of the communities.

STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION MEETINGS

After receiving a draft of District Disaster response framework, **six** (3 in district SBA and 3 in Mirpurkhas) stakeholder coordination meetings were conducted. These meeting were attended by the focal persons from the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), the Director of Human Rights, the Deputy Director of the Women Department, the Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department, Rescue 1122 as well as representatives from women trade unions and civil society.

The first two meetings were introductory in nature. Their primary objective was to brief stakeholders on the project's scope and objectives,

as well as to explain the purpose and process of developing a disaster response framework. While in the remaining meetings, participants appreciated the development of the disaster response framework in the local language (Sindhi), noting that it would help strengthen communication and engagement with communities during emergencies. Across these meetings, participants were oriented on the Disaster Response Framework (DRF) developed under the DN-funded project, ensuring a shared understanding of its objectives, structure, and intended outcomes.

A key outcome of these engagements was the active participation of government officials and community representatives in reviewing and strengthening the DRF. DDMA representatives and trade union members provided practical and context-specific inputs, including the important recommendation to incorporate a comprehensive list of emergency contact numbers. Additional suggestions gathered through coordination with the DN team were also documented, with a clear commitment from the project team to integrate them into the revised framework.

The meetings also reinforced institutional ownership and collaboration. Government stakeholders appreciated the meaningful role of Peasant Women Trade Union members, highlighting their contribution to inclusive disaster preparedness and response planning. This recognition reflects growing alignment between community-based organizations and government departments in addressing disaster risks.

As a significant milestone, the finalized District Resilience Forum (DRF) document was formally presented to the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and was successfully acknowledged. This achievement marked the transition from the consultative and planning phase to the operationalization of the forum, laying the foundation for its active role in strengthening local disaster risk management and resilience efforts.

PROJECT FINAL EVALUATION

This was the final project activity to assess the overall effectiveness, outcomes, and impact of the project by comparing endline results with baseline data, measuring changes in beneficiaries' knowledge, skills, and practices, documenting key achievements and lessons learned.

The survey covered 72 respondents across both districts and recorded increased participation of women, who represented 58.3% of respondents compared to 50% at baseline. Communities demonstrated a stronger understanding of disaster risks, moving beyond recognition of floods, droughts, heatwaves, and heavy rains to understanding their impacts on livelihoods, food security, health, and displacement.

One of the most significant achievements was the expansion of access to

	Early Warning Systems (EWS). Awareness and access to disaster warnings increased from 9.1% at baseline to 97.2% at endline, with most households receiving alerts at least two to three days before an event. Institutional awareness also improved considerably, rising from 50% to 76.4%, with community members increasingly recognizing the roles of DDMA, local government, rescue services, and NGOs. The project achieved notable gains in disaster preparedness and capacity building. Exposure to disaster-related training increased from approximately 15% to nearly 69%, while practical skills such as first aid, CPR, rescue techniques, shelter management, and emergency response became widely known. Household preparedness practices became more comprehensive, with families adopting multiple risk-reduction measures including food and water storage, livestock protection, emergency savings, house repairs, and protection of important documents. Gender inclusion emerged as a major success. Support for women's participation in disaster preparedness became nearly universal, and women assumed expanded roles in decision-making, preparedness planning, community awareness, and emergency response activities. Confidence in responding to disasters increased dramatically from around 10% at baseline to over 91% at endline. Despite these achievements, important challenges remain. Poverty, weak housing structures, inadequate shelter facilities, limited government service delivery, and continued reliance on debt and asset sales during emergencies continue to constrain resilience outcomes. Significant disparities also exist between districts, particularly regarding training coverage, transport availability, access to safe shelters, and clean water. The endline evaluation confirms that the project successfully strengthened disaster awareness, preparedness capacities, early warning access, institutional engagement, and women's leadership. However, continued investment in infrastructure, livelihood resilience, shelter facilities, and institutional service delivery will be essential to sustain and expand these gains.
2.2. Progress Against Agreed Timeline	All planned activities achieved timely.
2.3 Project Result/Output	• A baseline survey was conducted which understand KAP and identify stakeholders. • Disaster response framework written/developed • Training manual prepared and used for the community training workshops • 12 One Day Community Capacity Building Training Workshop were

	conducted on Disaster preparedness, Early Warning System and Livestock Protection. • 12 Disaster Simulation Drills training workshops at village level. • 6 Stakeholder Coordination meetings were organized between communities and government officials on District Disaster Response Framework (DDRF). • A Final Project Evaluation was conducted to assess the project's outcomes and overall impact through a comparative analysis of the endline findings against the baseline study.
2.4 Key Observations	• Communities frequently witnessed flood and disasters, now they are more interested to participate in DRR activities to protect their lives, livelihood and productive assets. • It has been learned that communities' own initiatives which are more localize and participatory led communities. • Community centered awareness raising and behavioural change activities are more required and appreciated by the Government line departments. • Trainings were conducted in the villages, which helped ensure 100% participation from all intended participants. • Several literate young girls provided assistance during the group activities, helping their fellow group members. • A brief overview of the project and the Disaster Response Framework sparked interest among stakeholders, who shared various action points during the meetings • Communities have shown ownership by taking the initiative to organize similar Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training sessions on their own. • Providing training opportunities to members of religious minority communities in District Mirpurkhas proved effective, as they were able to directly apply the learnings in their work in agriculture and livestock. • Hands-on sessions (fire safety, CPR, rescue techniques) helped participants move beyond theory and gain confidence in real-life disaster situations. • Collaboration with Rescue 1122 ensured professional guidance and increased the quality, credibility, and effectiveness of the training. • It was observed that providing DRR kits alongside simulation drills can enhance communities' ability to respond more effectively and promptly to future disasters.

	• The DDMA and other district government departments have shown ownership by committing to review the DRF, provide feedback, and share valuable suggestions on the early warning system and disaster preparedness. • Developing Disaster Response Framework in local language made it easier for trade union members to understand and now they are now providing their input to make it more practical and effective.
2.5 Additional Project-Relevant Work	Hari Welfare Association (HWA) integrated the Aawaz II and SIDDRA projects to strengthen disaster preparedness and inclusive community participation. Through Village Forums and women-led Special Interest Groups (SIGs), rural women were engaged in risk mapping and advocacy, while coordination with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and relevant line departments was enhanced. This integration promoted the active participation of women in local disaster risk reduction and governance processes. Community participants previously trained in disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and livestock protection conducted Cascade Training sessions at the village level. A total of 12 sessions were organized through community-led initiatives, reflecting enhanced local ownership and extending the project's outreach to an additional 164 individuals. Two capable participants with strong knowledge and communication skills were selected by the community to lead these sessions. Although each session lasted 1–2 hours, trainers effectively covered key topics including types of disasters, safe household construction, livestock protection, early warning systems, and coordination with relevant government departments. The project mobilization team remained present throughout, providing facilitation and guidance as needed. HWA has submitted both the E-Booklet and the ICKT in line with the agreed outline and the team's understanding, ensuring that all required checklist elements were addressed to the best of its capacity. Additionally, coordination was strengthened with the focal person from the Practical Action Consultant, and success stories from the DN project were shared accordingly. Additionally, HWA promoted project visibility and learning by presenting the Duryog Nivaran-funded intervention at an AAWAZ II implementing partners' forum, highlighting the effectiveness of its women-led and community-centered approach. Success stories are being documented to capture project achievements and behavioral changes at the community level. Field visits by HWA's Board of Directors and management confirmed positive project outcomes, strong community ownership, and the project's contribution to sustainable disaster governance and resilience.

	<u>The project also achieved other than project activities including;</u> • District Disaster Response Framework is also used/adopted by one of Siri lankan based organization • Developed a partnership with Rescue 1122, a government agency responsible for emergency and disaster response in the province. This ensures sustainability of the project that a direct coordination between the community and 1122 staff has been established to keep this continue. • HWA participated during the “Draw the Line Campaign” and prepared and presented the Charter of Demands.
3. Challenges, Risk Management, and Lessons Learned	• DRR was new subject for many communities. • Low literacy among community members, especially women • Limited availability of government officials, affecting coordination and timely engagement. • Unexpected disruptions, such as undeclared holidays and strikes. • Community engagement with seasonal crops, such as harvesting of the crop and daily wages for labour work. • High community interest - Communities with prior exposure to disasters are highly motivated to engage in DRR activities. • Regular engagement with DDMA and line departments strengthens implementation and policy uptake. • Cascade trainings and support from literate community members enhance knowledge sharing. • Engaging women, minorities, and PWDs leads to more resilient and equitable communities. • Developing the Disaster Response Framework in Sindhi made it easier for both communities and officials to understand and implement. • The fact that communities independently organized additional training reflects strong ownership and long-term impact. • Providing DRR kits to communities would add significant value.
4.Communications, Stakeholder Engagement and Networking Highlights	Introductory meetings conducted with DDMA, Social Welfare Department, Labour Department, Human Rights Department and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD), Government of Sindh. During the meeting, government officials were briefed about the project and they assured their support in the project delivery. The baseline study and coordination meeting are the witness of their utmost support as they provided current data and information of their department and show positive interest to work collaboratively on disaster risk governance in target districts.

	The project successfully facilitated six stakeholder coordination meetings across Shaheed Benazirabad and Mirpurkhas districts, bringing together representatives from DDMA, Human Rights, Women Development, Social Welfare Departments, Rescue 1122, women trade unions, and civil society organizations. These engagements served as an important platform for advocacy, knowledge sharing, and strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration on disaster risk management. Through continuous consultation and dialogue, stakeholders actively contributed to the review and refinement of the District Disaster Response Framework (DDRF), providing practical recommendations to enhance its relevance and effectiveness. The development of the framework in Sindhi was widely appreciated for improving accessibility and community engagement. The process also strengthened institutional ownership, with government officials recognizing the valuable role of women trade union members in promoting inclusive disaster preparedness and response planning. A key advocacy achievement was the formal presentation and acknowledgment of the finalized DRF by the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), marking a significant step towards institutionalizing inclusive and community-centered disaster risk management mechanisms at the district level.
4.1 Voices from the Field	Ms. Fouzia, a person with disability, shared with the project team that she contacted the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in Mirpurkhas to obtain information about safe locations for livestock ahead of the first winter rains. After receiving the guidance, she successfully relocated her livestock to a safe place, preventing potential losses. “Before this training, we did not know how early warning messages work or what actions we should take first during floods. Now we understand how to protect our livestock, prepare our homes, and share information with other women in the village. This knowledge has given us confidence.” (Shared by Ms. Khaskheli a member of Trade Union, at the completion of DRR training in village Shah Muhammad Khaskheli, district Shaheed Benazirabad) The group discussions and role plays helped us understand our responsibilities during emergencies. Learning in our own language made everything clear. We are now better prepared to respond collectively if a disaster occurs. Habib Khatoon (Benazirabad): Shared that disaster risk reduction was entirely new to her, and the training helped her understand how to prepare for and respond to floods, droughts, and heavy rains.

	Shanti (Mirpurkhas): Expressed that the training was a new and valuable experience, enabling her to actively learn practical ways to protect her life and belongings during disasters.
5. Financial Summary & Future Plans	Note: Detailed financial data should be included in a separate Financial Reporting Template and only referenced here to show budget utilization.
6. Appendices: Supporting Documentation	Pictures/MOVs (Means of Verification): Insert high-quality images, screenshots, or links to supporting documents. Each item must include a clear, descriptive caption. <i>(Optional: Include the Project Partner's logo here or in the header/footer of the document.)</i>

Pictures/MOVs (with description)

Baseline study – Data collection activities through KII and FGDs in district SBA and Mirpurkhas, Sindh, Pak



Project introductory meetings with women-led trade unions



Under the SIDDRA project, Aawaz II's SIGs were engaged in disaster preparedness and risk mapping, focusing on agriculture-related vulnerabilities during the monthly advocacy meeting of District Forum in Mirpurkhas, Sindh.



Coordination meeting with Mr. Syed Abrar Shah – Additional Deputy Commissioner I & Focal Person District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), district Shaheed Benazirabad, Sindh



Coordination meeting with Mr. Anwar Hussain Khaskheli – Deputy Director Social Welfare Department, district Mirpurkhas, Sindh



One Day Community Capacity Building Training Workshop were conducted on Disaster preparedness, Early Warning System and Livestock Protection in Village Shah Muhammad Khaskheli,district SBA, Sindh, Pakistan



Active Participation of Members of Peasants Women Trade Unions during the DRR Training Workshops



One Day Community Capacity Building Training Workshop were conducted on Disaster preparedness, Early Warning System and Livestock Protection in Village Hari Ram Kishori, district SBA, Sindh, Pakistan



A group of photos after Simulation Drills in Village Shah Muhammad Khaskheli & Essa Makrani conducted by Rescue 1122



Active Participation can be seen by the members of women trade unions and villagers during the simulation drills in various villages of district Mirpurkhas and Shaheed Benazirabad



At the conclusion of the drills, the President of HWA presented shields and certificates to the Rescue 1122 team members as a token of appreciation for their support and efforts



Stakeholders Coordination Meeting in District Shaheed Benazirabad, Sindh, Pakistan



Stakeholders Coordination Meeting in District Mirpurkhas, Sindh, Pakistan



Stakeholder Coordination meetings between government officials and members of women trade unions on Disaster Response Framework in district SBA and MPK

