



Disaster Risk Reduction in Pakistan: SINDH DROUGHT RESILIENCE PROGRAM (SDRP)

Combating climate change and responding to the knock-on climate shocks and disasters that further increase the levels of risk and vulnerability of communities living in extreme poverty is one of the greatest challenges we have ever faced. Why? **Because climate-related disasters are not isolated events.** Whether it be droughts and floods or wildfires and earthquakes, these crises destroy land, decimate livestock, and displace communities by the thousands, leaving - most often - the most vulnerable individuals who are least able to cope with such shocks susceptible to lost livelihoods and increased hunger.

We may not be able to prevent a disaster from happening, but we can work with communities to prepare for the impact through **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** - the process by which Concern Worldwide reduces the impact of hazards on the lives and livelihoods of people living in extreme poverty.

While no two DRR plans are the same, **there are a few key initiatives that are often key components:**



Infrastructure designed to reduce risk, like retaining walls, checking dams, embankments, or terraces.



Agricultural interventions like Climate Smart Agriculture and conservation agriculture.

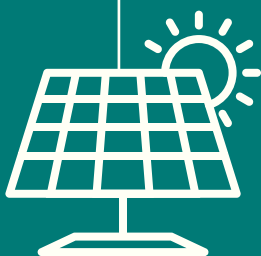


Early warning systems and preparedness planning for improving local response to disasters when they happen.

Ranked 5th in the Global Climate Risk Index of countries most vulnerable to climate change, **Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to recurring flooding and drought**, which have increased in intensity over the last 20 years.

With the support of BHA/USAID, Concern implemented the Sindh Drought Resilience Program (SDRP) between 2019 and 2022. There was strong involvement of national and international partners including UN agencies, Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF), and other relevant humanitarian forums. In alignment with national development frameworks, SDRP reached 300 drought-affected villages and took an inclusive approach by focusing on the most vulnerable, including widows, people who did not own land, women, and jobless young men with no higher education.

175°
people trained in
Solar Lights and
UPS Repairs



“

We learned about the importance of digital technology, the framework used to forecast weather conditions. Following community-based disaster risk management, I am now well-versed in mechanisms for developing early alerts in my village through phone calls, text messages, masjid (Mosques) announcements, and a variety of other methods. I learned how to recognize vulnerabilities, divide roles and responsibilities among my members, and activate a response in the event of an emergency.

- MOHAMMED TUFAIL

President of Village Disaster Management Committee for Gogasar Yousfani Village, Tharparkar District, Sindh Province

By conducting training on drought mitigation and early preparedness, the **SDRP was community-led and implemented by 300 village disaster risk management committees** and 40 district-level committees resulting in:

818,537

people reached

80%

of households reported adopting new drought-resistant, high-yield seeds to increase food security

5x ↑

in monthly income reported as a result of training for non-agricultural livelihoods

155,785

heads of livestock vaccinated, protecting against recurring infections

11,398

persons directly utilizing improved water services

475

people trained in Tailoring and Dress Making



“

.... I have been trained by the program as a community worker to visit door to door to promote hygiene and enhance awareness about personal hygiene among women and girls, but I have also learned tailoring and make about USD 3-5 per day. I think the women in this village hamlet could do much more than what we are doing now. My ambition is that either Concern or USAID establish a Women Skill Development Center where I can teach embroidery to young girls who could also do some marketing in nearby towns and Tharparkar. This is a way towards women economic empowerment, I always think that for how long these young girls will keep on grazing their animals and drudgery of water collection which begins from our childhood days and continues till the end of our lives.

- PARTICIPANT

Village Rohirari, UC Peelu, Negarparkar

DRR at The Policy Level

In addition to concrete community level interventions, an external evaluation of the program found that **at the policy level, the program made a significant contribution to the Sendai Framework 2015-2030** implementation and is aligned with the four main areas of the Sendai Framework:

1

Understanding disaster risk

Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

2

3

Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and

Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better”

4



DRR in Action: Sindh Drought Resilience Program (SDRP)



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