



From a Housewife to a Dairy Entrepreneur: GLLSP-II's Impact on Women's Financial Independence

In coastal Balochistan, the Gwadar Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project (GLLSP-II) is transforming fishing communities by providing women with income-generating assets. Implemented by NRSP with IFAD funding, this initiative identifies vulnerable households through the BISP Poverty Scorecard and equips them with resources to break free from poverty.

The program offers a holistic approach to creating sustainable alternatives to fishing, particularly through integrated dairy farming that provides stability when traditional livelihoods are uncertain.

In Taj Muhammad Bandicha Goth, Uthal, a mother named Bachai once faced a future clouded by poverty and uncertainty. Today, with a dairy cow by her side and hope in her heart, she is reshaping her family's destiny—one drop of milk at a time.



The Challenge: Tides of Hardship

Unpredictable Income

Fishing families earned around Rs. 19,000 monthly, but with significant seasonal fluctuations, especially during monsoon bans when fishing was impossible.

Food Insecurity

Families often skipped meals during lean periods, creating nutritional deficits, particularly for children and women.

Exploitative Systems

"Private milk vendors paid Rs. 40 per liter barely enough to cover feed costs," highlighting the economic barriers facing rural women.

For families like Bachai's in Taj Muhammad Bandicha Goth, Uthal, relying solely on fishing meant living with constant uncertainty. Her husband Muhammad Raheem's income was unpredictable, and medical emergencies often led to crippling debt. Without alternative income sources, these families had no financial security, trapping them in cycles of poverty with limited options for advancement.

The Solution: A Holistic Dairy Model

Asset Provision

Women received cows adapted to coastal environments (LIP NRSP-B-L-KW-2111), providing immediate productive assets.

Skills Development

Hands-on coaching in animal healthcare, milk hygiene, and business management ensured sustainable operations.

Support Services

Mobile veterinary clinics provided vaccinations and breed improvements, creating a comprehensive support system.



GLLSP-II introduced an integrated approach to a small scale dairy farming specifically designed for coastal communities. By combining asset provision with training and ongoing support, the program created a sustainable alternative to fishing. This holistic model addressed not just immediate income needs but built long-term capacity for women to manage successful micro-enterprises.

The Transformation: Voices from the Ground

"This animal feeds us when the sea doesn't," says Bachai, watching her children chase a newborn calf across their yard.

Bachai's household has experienced a dramatic shift since receiving her cow. Household earnings have doubled, providing financial stability previously unknown. Nutritionally, her children now consume 2 liters of milk daily, improving their health outcomes. Within just three months, her cow gave birth to a calf, expanding her assets and creating opportunities for herd growth.

The impact extends beyond economics. "Now I contribute equally to household decisions. My husband says the cow is our second boat," Bachai notes with pride. The program has created a ripple effect in communities, with Bachai's neighbor Fatima sharing: "I joined the poultry program after seeing her progress. My turn to rise."

100%
Income
Increase

Household earnings doubled for participating families

2Liters
Daily
Nutrition

Milk consumption per family, improving child health

3
months
Asset Growth

Time until first calf birth, expanding family resources

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